



THE
KING OF PRUSSIA







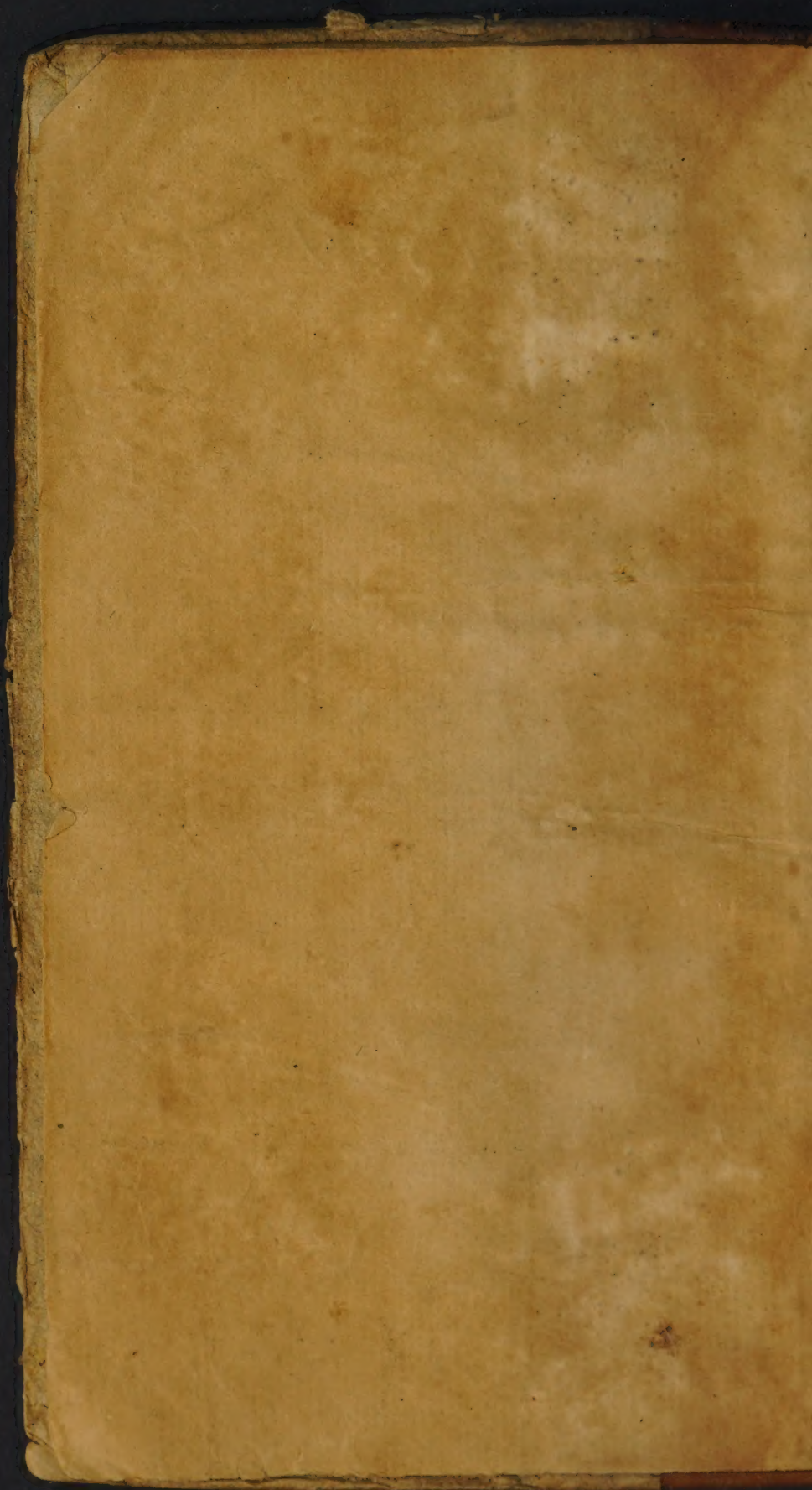
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Engraving



William Frederick Rowland

1779



THE
L I F E
AND
Heroick Actions
OF
FREDERICK III.
King of *PRUSSIA*.

From his Birth to the Present Times.

CONTAINING

All the Military Transactions of GERMANY from
the Year 1740, and including all the Operations
of the Campaign of 1757.

Published for the Entertainment and Improvement of
the BRITISH YOUTH of both Sexes.

By W. H. DILWORTH, A. M.

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T H E

Life of *FREDERICK* III. KING of *PRUSSIA*.

CHARLES *FREDERICK* III. the present Monarch of Prussia, equally famed for his literary and military Qualities, is the eldest Son of *Frederick William* by *Dorothea*, Daughter of *George* the first, King of *England*. He was born on the 24th of *January* 1711, but of his Infant Years, nothing remarkable has been transmitted to us ; the first Instance that rendered him remarkable was his Disagreement with his Father, who was of a violent and arbitrary Disposition ; his Views were narrow and his Passions vehement ; was earnestly engaged in little Pursuits, or in Schemes terminating in some speedy Consequence, without any Plan of lasting Advantage to himself or his Subjects, or any Prospect of distant Events. He was therefore always busy though no Effects of his Activity ever appeared, and always eager tho' he had nothing to gain. His Behaviour was to the last Degree rough and savage : The least Provocation, whether designed or accidental, was returned by Blows, which he did not always forbear even to the Queen and Princeesses.

It was therefore no enormous Violation of Duty in the Son and immediate Heir of a Kingdom to differ in Opinion from such a King and such a Father, and even sometimes to maintain that Difference with decent Pertinacity. A Prince of a quick and comprehensive

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hensive Knowledge must find many Practices in the Conduct of Affairs which he could not approve, and some which it would be difficult not to oppose.

The old King's chief Pride was to be Master of the tallest Regiment in *Europe*, and accordingly collected from all Parts, Men above the common military Standard. To exceed the Height of six Feet was a certain Recommendation to Notice, and to approach that of seven a Claim to Distinction. Men will readily go where they are sure of being caressed, and accordingly he had such a Collection of Giants as was perhaps never before seen in any Part of the World.

To review this towering Regiment was his daily Pleasure, and he was so desirous of perpetuating it, that whenever he met a tall Woman, he immediately commanded one of his Giant Retinue to marry her, that they might propagate Men above the ordinary Standard, and become Heirs to their Father's Accoutrements.

There was however no Crime in taking Care of this tall Regiment, who made a fine Shew at an Expence not much greater, when once collected, than would have been bestowed upon common Men. But the military Pastimes of the old King were often more pernicious. He maintained a numerous Army of which he made no other Use than to review and to talk of it; and when he, or his Emissaries saw a Boy, whose Form and Sprightliness promised a future Soldier, he ordered a Kind of Badge to be put about his Neck by which he was marked out for the Service, like the Sons of *Christian* Captives in *Turkey*, and his Parents were not permitted to initiate him into any other Calling.

Though this was highly oppressive, it was not the utmost of his Tyranny. He had imbibed the Notion that to be rich was to be powerful; but had not Reflection

fection sufficient to teach him that Riches of a King should be apparent in the Opulence of his Subjects. He therefore raised exorbitant Taxes on every Kind of Commodity and Possession, and heaped up Money in his Treasury, from whence it was never issued. How the Lands which had paid Taxes once was to pay it a second Time, how Imposts could be levied without Commerce, or Commerce carried on without Money, were Points which he never gave himself the Trouble to consider. Eager to snatch at Money and delighted to count it, he felt a new Pleasure at every Receipt, and thought himself enriched by the Impoverishment of his Dominions.

It is not easy to discover which of these particular Transactions gave Disgust to the Prince, or whether he was offended by some Particulars of a domestick Nature. But whatever was the Cause of his Resentment, it rose to such a Height, that he determined to leave both the Court and Territories of his Father, and seek an Asylum with some kindred Prince. It is the general Opinion that he intended to come to *England*, and live under the Protection of his Uncle, till his Father's Death or Change of Conduct, offered him an Opportunity to return.

But whatever his Design was, he concerted with an Officer of the Army whose Name was *Kalte*, a Person in whom he placed the most entire Confidence, and whom having chosen for the Companion of his Flight, he necessarily trusted with the preparatory Measures. It is impossible for a Prince to leave his Country with the Facility of a meaner Fugitive, something was to be provided, and something adjusted. And, whether *Kalte* found the Agency of others necessary, and consequently obliged to admit some Partners into the Secret; whether Levity or Vanity incited him to disburthen himself of a Trust which swelled his Bosom.

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or magnify his Importance before a Friend or Mistress ; this is certain that the King discovered the Secret of the Prince's intended Flight, and both him and his Favourite before the Time fixed for their Departure, were arrested and confined in different Places.

The Life of Princes is seldom in Danger, the Punishment of their Irregularities falls only on those whom Ambition or Affection combines with them. The King after confining his Son for some Time, set him at Liberty ; but poor *Kalte* was ordered to be tried for a capital Crime. The Court accordingly examined the Cause and acquitted him ; the King commanded a second Trial, and forced his Judges to condemn him. In Consequence of which Sentence, thus tyrannically extorted, he was publicly beheaded, leaving behind him some Papers of Reflection, made in the Prison, which were afterwards printed, and among others an Admonition to the Prince for whose Sake he suffered, not to harbour in himself an Opinion of Destiny, for that a Providence is discoverable in every Object around us.

This cruel Prosecution of a Man who had committed no Crime, but by Compliance with Influence not easily resisted, was not the only Act by which the old King irritated his Son. A Lady with whom the Prince was suspected of Intimacy, perhaps more than Virtue allows, was seized on some Pretence, and by the King's Order, notwithstanding all the Reasons of Decency and Tenderneſs that operate in other Countries and in other Judicatures, was publicly whipped in the Streets of *Berlin*.

At last, that the Prince might feel the Power of a King and a Father in its utmost Rigour, he was, in 1733. married against his Consent to the Princess *Elizabetha Christiana* of *Brunswick Lunenburg Beveren*.
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He indeed submitted to his Father's Command, by marrying her, but without professing for her either Esteem or Affection; and considering the Claim of parental Authority fully satisfied by the external Ceremony, obstinately, during the Life of his Father, kept from her Bed. Thus the unfortunate Princess lived about seven Years in the Court of *Berlin*, in a State not often seen, a Wife without a Husband, married so far as to engage her Person to a Man who did not desire her Affection, and of whom it was doubtful whether he thought himself restrained from the Power of Repudiation by an Act performed under evident Compulsion.

In this Manner the Prince lived secluded from publick Business, in Contention with his Father, in Alienation from his Wife. In this State of Uneasiness, he endeavoured to divert his Mind from the uneasy Scenes that surrounded him, by Studies and literary Amusements. The Studies of Princes seldom produce great Effects, for they draw with meaner Mortals, the Lot of Understanding; and since among many Students not more than one can be hoped to advance far towards Perfection, it is scarcely to be expected that we should find that one a Prince; that the Desire of Science should overpower in any Mind the Love of Pleasure when it is always present or always within Call; that laborious Meditation should be preferred in the Days of Youth to Amusements and Festivity, and that Perseverance should press forward in Contempt of Flattery, and that he in whom moderate Acquisitions would be extolled as Prodigies, should exact from himself that Excellence, of which the whole World conspires to spare him the Necessity.

In every great Performance, perhaps, in every great Character, Part is the Gift of Nature, Part the Contribution of Accident, and Part the Effect of Assiduity

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and regular Design. The King of *Prussia* was undoubtedly born with more than common Abilities; and he has cultivated them with more than common Diligence, probably from the Effect of his peculiar Condition, which he then considered as cruel and unfortunate.

During this long Interval of Unhappiness and Obscurity he acquired a Skill in the mathematical Sciences that justly places him in the first Class; and his Skill in Poetry is sufficiently evident from the Specimens that have been transmitted to the Publick, and the Praises bestowed on them by *Voltaire*, a Judge without Exception. Musick he not only understands but also composes and performs on the *German Flute* in the highest Perfection.

But besides these Advantages, he may be said to owe to the Difficulties of his Youth, another less frequently obtained by Princes than Literature and Mathematicks. The Necessity of passing his Time without Pomp, and of partaking of the Pleasures and Labours of a lower Station, made him acquainted with the various Forms of Life, and with the genuine Passions, Interests, Desires and Distresses of Mankind. Without this Help from temporary Infelicity, Kings sees the World as it were in a Mist, which magnifies every Thing near them, and bounds their View to a narrow Compass, which few are able to extend by the mere Force of Curiosity.

Thus the King of *Prussia* brought to the Throne the Knowledge of a private Man; and of this general Acquaintance with the World may be found some Traces in his whole Life. His Conversation is like that of the other Men upon common Topicks, his Letters have an Air of familiar Elegance, and his whole Conduct is that of a Man who has to do with Men, and

who

who is not ignorant of the Motives that will prevail over Friends and Enemies.

In the Year 1740 the old King was taken ill, and perceiving his Distemper, notwithstanding all that the learned Physicians could prescribe, gained upon his Strength, grew at last sensible that his End was approaching. He therefore ordered the Prince to be called to his Bed-side, and laid several Injunctions on him, one of which was to perpetuate the tall Regiment by continual Recruits, and another to receive his Wife. The Prince gave him a respectful Answer, but wisely avoided to diminish his own Right or Power by an absolute Promise, and the King died without receiving any Certainty with Regard to the tall Regiment.

Immediately after the Death of the old King, *Frederick III.* ascended the *Prussian* Throne, with great Expectations, which he has however surpassed. His Father's Faults produced many Advantages to the first Years of his Reign. He had an Army of 70,000 Men well disciplined, without any Imputation of Severity to himself, and was Master of an immense Treasure without either the Crime or Reproach of raising it.

The first Cares of every Man are always of a domestic Nature ; and the King being now freed from all Restraint, determined to act towards the unhappy Lady who had possessed for seven Years the empty Title of Princess of *Prussia*, worthy of himself ; and accordingly, in the Presence of his whole Court, received her as Queen.

Soon after his Resolution was known with Regard to the tall Regiment ; for some Recruits being offered him, he rejected them ; and this Body of Giants, by being disregarded, mouldered away.

His filial Behaviour to his Mother was always remarkable ;

markable ; few private Men treat their Parents with so great Respect ; for he never approached her covered, nor without the highest Expressions of Reverence. He ordered she should bear the Title of Queen Mother and would never suffer her to address him as *his Majesty*, but always stile him Son.

The Good of his People also claimed his utmost Attention ; and he shewed himself an Enemy to Tyranny wherever it appeared, for soon after his Ascension to the Throne, passing in his Coach from *Potsdam* to *Berlin*, a thousand Boys, who had been marked out for military Service, surrounded him, crying out, *Merciful King deliver us from our Slavery*. He promised them their Liberty, and the next Day ordered that the Badge should be taken off.

But his Care of the Government did not prevent his continuing to keep up that Correspondence with learned Men which he began when he was Prince, he even considerably enlarged it.

It soon appeared that he was determined to govern with very little ministerial Assistance ; for he took Cognizance of every Thing with his own Eyes, declared that in all Disputes between him and his Subjects the publick Good should have the Preference, and one of the first Exertions of his legal Power was to banish the prime Minister and Favourite of his Father, as one who had betrayed his Master and abused his Trust.

After this he declared his Resolution of granting a general Toleration of Religion, and that it was his Intention to support good Men, be their religious Tenets what they would.

There had for some Years subsisted an Order in *Prussia*, called the *Order for Favour*, and which, according to its Denomination had been conferred without any Regard to Merit. This the King considered

as repugnant to the Nature of all Orders, and therefore constituted another, which he called the *Order for Merit*, with which he honoured those whom he considered as deserving it.

Nor was he unattentive to the Necessities of the Poor ordering the Magistrates of the several Districts to be very careful to relieve their Wants, and if the Funds established for that Purpose were not sufficient, permitted them to make up the Defect out of the Revenues of the Town.

The Advancement of Learning was also one of his first Cares ; in Order to which he prevailed on the celebrated *Voltaire* and *Maupertuis* to come to *Berlin*, and there establish an Academy on the same Plan as that of the Academy of *Arts and Sciences* at *Paris*.

But though he was very desirous of promoting the Sciences in his Dominions, he at the same Time demonstrated to the World, that literary Amusements would not withdraw him from the Care of his Kingdom or make him forget his Rights. His first Transaction of this Kind, was the reviving the Claim of his Ancestors on *Herstal* and *Hermal*, two Districts possessed by the Bishop of *Liege*. Accordingly he sent his Commissary to demand the Homage of the Inhabitants ; but they refused him Admission, declaring that they would acknowledge no other Sovereign but the Bishop. On this Refusal the King wrote a Letter to the Bishop, in which he complained of the Violation of his Right, and the Contempt of his Authority ; charged the Prelate with countenancing the late Act of Disobedience, and required an Answer in two Days.

The Bishop returned an Answer in three Days, in which the Prelate founded his Claim to these two Lordships, on a Grant of *Charles V.* guaranteed by *France* and *Spain* ; alledged that his Predecessors had enjoyed

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enjoyed this Grant above a Century, and that he never intended to infringe the Rights of *Prussia*; but as the House of *Brandenburg* had always claimed that Territory, he was willing to do what other Bishops had offered, to purchase that Claim for an hundred thousand Crowns.

This his *Prussian* Majesty absolutely refused, and after publishing a Declaration in which he charged the Bishop with Violence and Injustice, and remarked that the feudal Laws allowed every Man an armed Force, he immediately dispatched two thousand Soldiers into the controverted Countries; where they lived at Discretion, exercising every Kind of military Tyranny, till the Cries of the Inhabitants forced the Bishop to relinquish the Lordships to the quiet Government of *Prussia*.

This however was but a petty Acquisition, the Time was now come when the King of *Prussia* was to form and execute greater Designs. On the 9th of *October* 1740, half *Europe* was thrown into Confusion by the Death of *Charles VI.* Emperor of *Germany*; by whose Death all the hereditary Dominions of the House of *Austria* descended, according to the pragmatic Sanction, to the eldest Daughter, who was married to the Duke of *Lorrain*, at the Emperor's Death Duke of *Tuscany*.

But the Prince of *Germany*, on the Decease of the Emperor fell upon the *Austrian* Territories as on a dead Carcase to be dismembered without Opposition. And among the rest, the King of *Prussia*, whose Ancestors had always laid claim to Part of the Dutchy of *Silesia*.

Accordingly he immediately marched a powerful Army into that Dutchy, but at the same Time, by a Manifesto, disclaimed any Design of injuring the Rights of the House of *Austria*; adding, that the Fear of

of being defeated by other Pretenders to the *Austrian* Dominions, obliged him to enter *Silesia* without any previous Expostulation with the Queen of *Hungary*.

This Declaration was received by the *Austrians* with Indignation ; but the King pursued his Purpose of marching forward, and on the Frontiers of *Silesia*, made a Speech to his Soldiers, in which he told them that he considered them rather as Friends than Subjects, that the Troops of *Brandenburg* had been always eminent for their Bravery, that they would always fight in his Presence, and that he would not fail to recompense those who should distinguish themselves in his Service rather as a Father than as a King.

The Civilities of the great are never thrown away. The Soldiers would naturally follow such a Leader with Alacrity ; especially when they expected no Opposition ; but Expectations are too often deceived.

By thus suddenly entering into a Province which he was supposed more likely to protect than invade, he was soon Master of the greatest Part of it ; but supposing the Inhabitants would not so easily submit to his Government when the Army was withdrawn, he endeavoured to persuade the Queen to a Cession of *Silesia*, imagining she would readily yield what was already lost. Accordingly he ordered his Ministers at *Vienna*, to declare, “ That he was ready to guarantee all the
“ Dominions of the House of *Austria* : that he would
“ conclude a Treaty with *Austria*, *Russia*, and the
“ maritime Powers : That he would endeavour that
“ the Duke of *Lorrain* should be elected Emperor,
“ and believed he should be able to accomplish it :
“ That he would immediately advance to the Queen
“ two Millions of Florins : That in Recompense for
“ all

“ all these good Offices he required her to cede *Silesia* to him.”

This Declaration was accordingly made at *Vienna*; but the King soon after thought proper to moderate his Claim, and ordered his Minister to hint that a Part of *Silesia* would satisfy him.

The Queen answered, that though the King alledged as his Reason for entering *Silesia*, the Danger of the *Austrian* Territories from other Pretenders, and endeavoured to persuade her to give up Part of her Possessions for the Safety of the Rest, it was evident that he was the first and only Invader, and that till he entered in a hostile Manner, all her Estates were unmolested.

To his Promises of Assistance she replied, that she set a high Value on the King of *Prussia*'s Friendship, but that he was already obliged to assist her against Invaders both by the golden Bull, and the pragmatic Sanction, of which he was a Guarantee; and that if these Ties were of no Force, she knew not what to hope from other Engagements. With Regard to his Offers of Alliance with *Russia* and the maritime Powers, she observed, that it could never be necessary to alienate her Dominions for the Consolidation of an Alliance formed for no other Reason than to keep them entire.

As to his Interest in the Election of an Emperor, she expressed her Gratitude in the strongest Terms; but added that the Election ought to be free, and that it must be necessarily embarrassed by Contentions raised in the Heart of the Empire. With Regard to the pecuniary Assistance proposed, she remarked that no Prince ever made War to oblige another to take Money, and that the Contributions already levied in *Silesia* exceeded the two Millions offered as its Purchase.

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She concluded with observing that her Value for the King of *Prussia's* Friendship was so great, that she was willing to purchase it at any Rate, except that of dismembering her Dominions, and exhorting him to perform his Part in the pragmatic Sanction.

The King finding Negotiations were not attended with Success, pushed forwards into *Silesia*, and gave the World an Instance, with how much Secrecy he could take his Measures. When he called a Council of War, he proposed a Council in a few Words, all his Generals wrote their Opinions in his Presence on separate Papers, which he carried away, and examining them in private, formed his Resolution without imparting it otherwise than by his Orders.

His first Attempt was to release the People from the Rents and Services they used to pay to the Clergy, and seize on the Estates of the latter. He plundered the Convents of the Stores of Provisions ; and on the Communities complaining to him, he replied, " That he had never heard of any Magazines erected by the " Apostles."

Jablunea, one of the strong Towns of *Silesia* was the first that opposed his *Prussian* Majesty's Career ; but was soon taken by a Detachment from his Army ; though they soon after abandoned it for Want of Provisions, which the *Austrian* Hussars now every where in Motion were very busy to intercept.

But the taking of great *Glaugaw*, a large and well fortified City on the Borders of *Poland*, was attended with much greater Difficulty, and proved one of the most remarkable Events in the *Silesian* War.

This Town had for some Time been blocked up by the *Prussians*. But as it was well fortified and

abundantly supplied with Ammunition and Provisions, and defended by a numerous Garrison, there was little Hopes of its surrendering in any reasonable Time. It was therefore determined to attack it by Storm. Accordingly on the 7th of *March* 1741, at Night, Prince *Leopold* of *Anhalt Dessau*, who commanded the Blockade, received from his *Prussian* Majesty, the proper Orders for that Purpose, pursuant to a Plan which had been previously consulted with his Majesty.

The following Day was spent in making the necessary Preparations, which being finished about eight at Night, the Troops began to put themselves under Arms, and reached, about ten, their several Posts, which were situated about a Mile from the Town. They did not long continue there, but marched, with the greatest Secrecy and Silence to the Foot of the *Glacis*, which they reached by twelve. As soon as all the Troops were arrived, and the Signal given for the Attack, the Troops advanced to the Palisadoes, and leaping over them, threw themselves into the Covert-Way; at the same Time small Detachments were dispatched every Way to disarm every Enemy they could find.

The *Prussians* were now exposed, and the Town alarmed by their Fire; but this did not prevent them from descending into the Ditch, and from thence to advance to the Foot of the Rampart, which was thirty four Feet high, having a Slope of ten Feet, and rendered prodigious slippery by two Days hard Frost. They however soon surmounted all these Difficulties, and Prince *Leopold* with the *Marcgrave Charles*, and five or six others, first reached the Top of the Curtain; where they were soon joined by a Battalion and four Companies of Grenadiers, one of which seized a Bastion on the right, while another did the same on the left.

left. They then found themselves under a Necessity of breaking down the Gate behind which the Generals *Wallis*, and *Reyski*, had now posted themselves with their Grenadiers ; and who immediately on the *Prussians* making some Holes in the Gate, saluted them with a Shower of Bullets, whereby four Men were killed on the Spot. But Prince *Leopold* causing the Fire to be returned, General *Reyski* received two Wounds in his Belly, on which the Grenadiers fled, and Colonel *Wallis* was obliged to follow them. The Gate was now thrown open, and the *Prussians* passed through it into the Town. At the same Time two other Attacks were executed with the same Vigour, and with the same Success.

In Attempts of this Kind, many Accidents happen which cannot be read without Surprise. Four *Prussian* Grenadiers, who had climbed the Ramparts, missing their own Company, met an *Austrian* Captain with fifty two Men, they were at first terrified, and thought of nothing but Flight ; but at last, gathering Courage, commanded the *Austrians* to lay down their Arms, and in the Confusion and Pannick, which had seized their Enemies and doubtless magnified their Numbers, were unexpectedly obeyed.

During the Time the Grenadiers were clearing the Ramparts, the Battalions entered the Town, through the Passages made by the former, and the whole Transaction was finished by one in the Morning.

The whole Force of the *Prussians* amounted to no more than four Battalions, and eighteen Companies of Grenadiers ; and their whole Loss in the Action was only two commission Officers, three Subalterns, and thirty three private Men. All the Garrison consisting of one thousand and sixty-five Men, together with the Generals *Wallis* and *Reyski*, were made Prisoners

Prisoners of War. During the whole Attempt no Disorder happened, Murder and Plunder being both absolutely prohibited.

The *Prussians* found in the Place fifty Pieces of Brass Cannon, and a great Quantity of Ammunition, together with the military Chest, in which were thirty two thousand Florins.

Prince *Leopold* and the Margrave *Charles* received the Homage of the Nobility and Burghers to his *Prussian* Majesty, who was so greatly pleased with this Expedition, that he declared Prince *Leopold* General of Foot, and wrote him a very handsome Letter on the Occasion, in which he highly commended the Valour of all the Officers, adding that as he should never forget their gallant Behaviour, so he would take all Opportunities of convincing them of his complete Satisfaction.

A few Days after the taking of *Glougaw*, a Plot was discovered for carrying off the King of *Prussia*, and a Memorial was published, in which the *Austrian* Court was accused of employing Emissaries and Assassins against the King; and it was alledged in direct Terms, that one of them had confessed himself obliged by Oath to destroy him; which Oath had been administered to him in the *Aulic* Council in the Presence of the Duke of *Lorrain*.

To this the *Austrians* answered, that the Character of the Queen and the Duke was too well known, not to destroy the Force of such an Accusation; that the Tale of the Confession was an Imposture, and, in short that no Attempt either on the Life or Liberty of the *Prussian* King had been made.

But whatever was the real Truth, with Regard to this Attempt, it served to inflame both Parties, and the *Austrian* Generals had Orders to give the *Prussians* Battle, be the Event what it would. Nor were these

these Orders received long before they were actually put in Execution.

Battle of Molwitz.

On *Monday*, the 10th of *April* 1741, the two Armies met at *Molwitz*, about a League from *Neifs*; and about two in the Afternoon the Engagement began. The *Austrians* at first made the left Wing of the *Prussians*, commanded by Lieutenant General Count *Schulenberg* retire. But the King of *Prussia*, on being informed that the *Austrians* were superior to him in Cavalry, had intermixed Grenadiers with his Horse, whereby this Confusion was recovered. The Attack on the right Wing was also very sharp; but less so than that on the left. The *Austrians* made several more Attacks, but being always repulsed with Loss, they retired in good Order, about six in the Evening under the Cannon of *Neifs*, leaving the *Prussians* Masters of the Field of Battle.

The *Austrians* lost about four thousand Men, killed, wounded, and taken Prisoners, and the *Prussians* had about six hundred killed, and fifteen hundred wounded.

There was after this no Action of Importance, for the *Austrians* retiring, abandoned *Silesia*, which in a small Time submitted to the Conqueror. But his *Prussian* Majesty irritated with Opposition transferred his Vote at the Election of an Emperor to the Duke of *Bavaria*.

But the Time at which the Queen of *Hungary*, was willing to purchase Peace by the Resignation of *Silesia* was not yet arrived. She had all the Spirit, though not all the Power of her Ancestors, and could not bear the Thought of losing any Part of her patrimonial Dominions to her Enemies, which the Opini-

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on of her Weakness raised every where against her.

In the Beginning of the Year 1742, the Elector of *Bavaria* was invested with the imperial Dignity ; being supported by the Arms of *France*, Master of the Kingdom of *Bohemia*, and confederated with the Elector *Palatine* and the Elector of *Saxony*, who claimed *Moravia*, and with the King of *Prussia*, who was in Possession of *Silesia*.

Such was the State of the Queen of *Hungary*, pressed on every Side, and on every Side preparing for Resistance, she yet refused all Offers of Accommodation, for every Prince set Peace at a Price which she was not yet so far humbled as to pay.

The King of *Prussia* was among the most zealous, and forward in the Confederacy against her. He promised to secure *Bohemia* for the Emperor, and *Moravia* to the Elector of *Saxony* ; and finding no Enemy in the Field able to resist him, he returned to *Berlin*, leaving General *Schwerin* to prosecute his Conquests.

The *Prussians*, in the Midst of Winter took *Olmütz*, the Capital of *Moravia*, and laid the whole Country under Contribution. But the Cold hindering them from undertaking any Thing further, they only blocked up the Fortresses of *Brin* and *Spielberg*.

In the Spring the King of *Prussia* came again into the Field, and undertook the Siege of *Brin* ; but upon the Approach of Prince *Charles* of *Lorraine*, retired from before it, and quitted *Moravia*, leaving only a Garrison in the Capital.

The Condition of the Queen of *Hungary* was now changed. She was a few Months before without Money, without Troops, and encircled with Enemies ; the *Bavarians* had entered *Austria* ; *Vienna* was threatened

ened with a Siege: and the Queen had abandoned it to the Fate of War, and retired into *Hungary*, where she was received with Zeal and Affection.

Voltaire has asserted, that a large Sum was raised for her Succour by voluntary Subscriptions of *English* Ladies. It is the great Failings of a strong Imagination to catch greedily at Wonders. He was misinformed, and was, perhaps, to learn by a second Enquiry, a Truth less splendid and amusing. A Contribution was by News-writers upon their own Authority, fruitlessly proposed. It ended in nothing. The Parliament voted a Supply, and five hundred thousand Pounds were remitted to her.

It hath always been the Weakness of the *Austrian* Family to spend in the Magnificence of Empire, those Revenues which should be kept for its Defence. The Court is splendid, but the Treasury is empty, and at the Beginning of every War Advantages are gained against them, before their Armies can be assembled and equiped.

The *English* Money was to the *Austrians* as a Shower to a Field where all the vegetative Powers are kept unactive by a long Continuance of Drought. The Armies which had been hitherto hid in Mountains and Forests started out of their Retreats, and wherever the Queen's Standard was erected, Nations hardly known by their Names, swarmed immediately about it. An Army, especially a defensive Army, multiplies itself. The Contagion of Enterprize spreads from one Heart to another. Zeal for a Native, or Detestation for a foreign Sovereign, Hope of sudden Greatness or Riches, Friendship or Emulation between particular Men, or what are perhaps more general and powerful, Desire of Novelty, and Impatience of Inactivity, fill a Camp with Adventurers, add Rank to Rank, and, Squadron to Squadron. The

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The Queen had still Enemies to engage on every Side, but she had also Armies ready to oppose them; those of his *Prussian* Majesty occupied the adjacent Parts of *Czazlaw*, the most fertile Canton in all *Bohemia*. It abounds with small Towns and Villages very close to one another; and is watered on one Side by the *Sazava*, and on the other by the *Elbe*; which greatly contributes to produce the excellent Pasturages with which it abounds.

The *Prussians* having thus abandoned *Moravia*, the *Saxons*, who had co-operated with them in the Conquest of that Province, which they expected to have kept themselves, and seeing all Hopes of sudden Acquisitions defeated, and the Province abandoned again to its former Masters, left the *Prussian* Army as soon as it reached the Confines of *Bohemia*, and retired into their own Country.

The Queen of *Hungary* impatient to render her Arms successful in *Bohemia*, and depending greatly on the Experience of Count *Konigseck*, who was then with Prince *Charles* gave absolute Order to act with Vigour; and, if possible to bring on a decisive Battle. The *Prussian* Army was still in the Neighbourhood of *Czazlaw*, and divided into three Bodies: One was at *Leutomissel*, under the Command of Lieutenant-General *Jeets*; the second at *Chrudin*, where his *Prussian* Majesty had his Quarters; and the third between *Czazlaw* and *Ruttimberg* under the Command of Lieutenant General *Kalchstein*.

The Reinforcements were scarcely arrived at the *Prussian* Army, when his Majesty was informed, that Prince *Charles* of *Lorraine* was advancing towards *Bohemia*, with a considerable Army. On this News being confirmed; his Majesty reassembled his whole Forces at *Chrudin*, and on the 13th of *May* they entered the Camp marked out for them on a rising Ground; the right Wing reaching to the Village

Village of *Middlefresh*, and the left to the Rivulet of *Chrudimska*. On the 14th the *Prussians* received Advice that the *Austrians* were arrived upon the Banks of the *Sozava*. The Magazines of the *Prussian* Army were distributed along the *Elbe*, in Places where the Communication was easy by Means of a Bridge : But the Enemy made themselves Masters of it, and also of *Czazlaw*.

The King of *Prussia*, who watched attentively every Motion of Prince *Charles*, suspected that his Intention was to cut off his Communications both with his Magazines, and also with the *French* then in *Bohemia*, commanded by Marshal *Broglie*. These Circumstances admitted of no Delay ; and accordingly he lost no Time, but putting himself immediately at the Head of his Vanguard, which consisted of about ten Battalions, and twenty Squadrons of Dragoons and *Hussars*, marched directly to *Hermanstadt*, giving the Prince of *Anhalt* Orders to follow him the next Day, with the rest of the Army. As soon as the Provisions were arrived, and he had chosen an advantageous Post upon a rising Ground, he went himself to reconnoitre the Enemy, from the Top of a little Hill ; where he distinctly perceived a Body of *Austrians*, which he guessed to consist of seven or eight thousand Men encamped at *Willimow*. The next Day that Body having disappeared, his Majesty marched for *Ruttenberg*, where he had a Magazine. His Design was, if possible, to gain a March upon the Enemy, if they intended to continue their Rout to *Prague*, and to be at Hand to join the rest of the Army, if Occasion offered of giving Battle.

Battle of Czazlaw.

On the 16th in the Evening the Prince of *Anhalt* sent his Majesty Word, that the Enemy was in Mo-

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tion, and that several Deserters had declared to him, that Prince *Charles* had drawn out all his different Garrisons, to reinforce his Army ; that it was their Vanguard which had appeared the Day before ; but, taking the King's Detachment for the Army itself, retired, during the Night, to the main Body, and that the next Day about Noon, the *Austrians* being reunited, had begun their March. These Advices being afterwards confirmed, his Majesty at five o'Clock in the Morning of the 17th, gave Orders for his Army to advance. The Enemy also decamped the Evening before, and was advancing behind *Czazlaw* in four Columns. His *Prussian* Majesty being informed of this, sent Orders to the Prince of *Anhalt* to gain the Height, to reinforce the first Line of Infantry, and to leave in the second a sufficient Interval to place the ten Battalions and twenty Squadrons, which the King himself was bringing up ; and which no sooner arrived, than they began to cannonade the Enemy.

The *Prussian* Cavalry was drawn up upon the Height in such a Manner that they formed a larger Front than the *Austrian* Cavalry. The King ordered Lieutenant General *Bodenbock* to begin the Attack ; and the Shock of the *Prussian* Cavalry was at first so violent, that those of the Enemy in the first Column were thrown into Confusion. Count *Ruttenberg* pierced the second, and made two Regiments of Infantry in the left Wing retreat. But a thick Dust which now rose, hindered the *Prussians* from taking the Benefit of this first Advantage. The right Wing of the *Prussian* Army, which had formed the Attack Gibbet-ways, was taken in Flank by a Part of the *Austrian* Cavalry of the second Column, which made it give Way : but, this Attack excepted, the same Wing of the *Prussians* had gained a considerable Advantage

Advantage over the Enemy's Cavalry on the left Wing, during the Time that its Infantry, which had made a half Turn to the Right, had successfully attacked the Village of *Sobosistow*, where two Battalions of the Regiment of *Schwerin* were posted.

The Cavalry of the left Wing of the *Prussians* having returned to the Charge, the Regiments of Prince *William*, and of *Waldau*, pierced the second Line of the *Austrians* left Wing, and cut in Pieces the Regiment of *Wertes*. But the *Prussian* Cavalry, being desirous of flanking the Enemy's Infantry, weakened its Left, and by that Means gave the *Austrians* an Opportunity of advancing some Squadrons of Dragoons, which took the *Prussian* Infantry, posted on the other Side of *Chotozio* in Flank. This Infantry suffered considerably, for the *Austrian* Grenadiers, who advanced behind the Cavalry, took the Village and set it on Fire. The two Battalions who were obliged to abandon it, posted themselves in the Flank of the Infantry, which then redoubled its Fire; and the *Austrian* Cavalry being no longer able to oppose such powerful Attacks, the King of *Prussia* advanced with the whole right Wing of the Infantry, by which Means the Fire became so hot on this Side, that the Enemy being unable to recover themselves from the Disorder into which they were thrown, were obliged to fly before the victorious *Prussians*.

What contributed to augment this Disorder was an Action of the *Prussian* Hussars, who having attacked the Infantry of the second Line of the *Austrians*; it was obliged to form a hollow Square, and being as it were wedged in by this Position, it suffered equally on all Sides. Three or four Squadrons stood as yet firm on the Side of *Czaslaw*, but retired on the approach of the King of *Prussia* to attack them; for that Prince was every where, and even in the hottest of
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the Fire, with an Intrepidity, that his Courtiers trembled for his Safety.

This Victory was the more glorious for the King of *Prussia*, as the *Austrians* fought with the greatest Bravery ; their right Wing had repulsed three different Times the right Wing of the *Prussians*, without the least Sign of Confusion, after having made them recoil as far as *Chotowitz*, and set Fire to that Village, Prince *Charles*, who observed every Motion with the greatest Attention, did every Thing that was possible for a General to do ; but his disadvantageous Situation contributed to the Defeat of his Troops, which he could not rally, on Account of the incommodious Nature of the Ground. The Prince exposed himself so often during the Action, that he several Times narrowly escaped being killed or taken Prisoner.

This Victory, though very glorious to the *Prussians*, was dearly bought, their Army was much weakened, especially their Cavalry, which suffered extremely. Peace is easily made when it is necessary to both Parties ; and the King of *Prussia* had Reason to believe that the *Austrians* were not his only Enemies. When he found Prince *Charles* advancing, he sent to *Broglio* for Assistance, and was answered, “ That he must have Orders from *Versailles*.” Such a Desertion of his most powerful Ally disconcerted him, but the Battle was unavoidable.

When the *Prussians* were returned to their Camp, the King hearing that an *Austrian* Officer was brought in mortally wounded, had the Condescension to visit him. The Officer struck with this Act of Humanity said after a short Conversation, “ I should die, Sir, “ contentedly after this Honour, if I might first shew “ my Gratitude to your Majesty, by informing you “ with what Allies you are now united ; Allies whose “ sole Intention is to deceive you.” The King appearing

pearing to suspect this Intelligence. " Sir, said the
" Officer, if you will permit me to send a Mes-
" senger to *Vienna*, I believe the Queen will not re-
" fuse to transmit an intercepted Letter now in
" her Hands, which will put the Matter beyond
" Dispute."

The Messenger was sent, and the Letter transmitted,
which contained the Orders sent to *Broglie*, who was
1st, forbidden to mix his Troops on any Occasion
with the *Prussians*. 2dly, He was ordered to act
always at a Distance from the King. 3dly, To keep
always a Body of twenty thousand Men to observe the
Prussian Army. 4thly, To watch very closely the
Motions of the King, for Reasons of the last Import-
tance. 5thly, To hazard nothing but to pre-
tend Want of Reinforcements, or the Absence of
Bellisle.

The King now with great Reason considered him-
self as disengaged from the Confederacy, being de-
serted by the *Saxons*, and betrayed by the *French*;
he therefore accepted the Mediation of his *Britannick*
Majesty, and in three Weeks after the Battle of *Czaz-*
law concluded a Peace with the Queen of *Hungary*,
by which she granted to him not only the upper and
lower *Silesia*, except the Principality of *Jeschén* and
Trappau, but also the Principality of *Glatz* in *Bohemia*.
The King, on his Part, engaged to observe a perfect
Neutrality during the War, and took upon himself
to pay the Sum due to the *English* Merchants, Prin-
cipal and Interest, on Account of the Mortgage
made *January* 10, 1735, on *Silesia*, by the late Em-
peror.

This Treaty of Peace with the Queen of *Hungary*
was one of the first Proofs given by the King of *Prussia*
of the Secrecy of his Councils. *Bellisle*, the *French*
General was with him in the Camp as a Friend and
Coadjutor

Coadjutor in Appearance, but in Reality a Spy and Writer of Intelligence. Men who have great Confidence in their own Penetration, are often by that Confidence deceived ; they imagine that they can pierce through all the Involutions of Intrigue without the Diligence necessary to weaker Minds, and therefore sit idle and secure ; they believe that none can hope to deceive them, and therefore that none will venture to make the Experiment. *Bellisle*, with all his Reputation of Sagacity, though he was in the *Prussian* Camp, gave every Day fresh Assurances of the King's Adherence to the Allies, while *Broglie*, who commanded the Army at a Distance, discovered sufficient Reasons to suspect his Desertion. *Broglie* was slighted, and *Bellisle* believed, till on the 11th of *June*, the Treaty was signed, and the King declared his Resolution of observing a Neutrality. This is one of the great Performances of Policy which we agreed to celebrate and admire.

The King of *Prussia* having thus obtained *Silesia*, returned to his own Capital, where he applied himself to relieve the Wants, and augment the Commerce of his Subjects ; reformed the Laws, forbid the Torture to Criminals, concluded a defensive Alliance with *England*, and applied himself to the Augmentation of his Army.

To enlarge Dominions has been the Boast of many Princes ; to diffuse Happiness and Security through wide Regions has been granted to few. The King of *Prussia* has aspired to both these Honours, and endeavoured to unite the Glory of a Legislator to that of a Conqueror.

To settle Property, to suppress false Claims, and to regulate the Administration of civil and criminal Justice, are Attempts so difficult and useful, that an Account

count of his *Prussian* Majesty's Attempts of this Kind must not be omitted.

It is abundantly evident that the King has considered the Nature and Reasons of Law, from his *Dissertation on the Reasons for enacting and repealing Laws*. Many of his Observations are strictly just and really useful; and a candid Reader must observe, that he appears always propense to the Side of Mercy. "If
 " a poor Man, says he, steals through Necessity, a
 " Watch, or a few Pieces from one to whom the
 " Loss is inconsiderable, is this a sufficient Reason for
 " condemning him to Death?

He regrets that the Laws against Duels have proved ineffectual, and is of Opinion that they can never attain their End, unless the Princes of *Europe* shall agree not to afford an Asylum to Duelists, and to punish all who shall insult their Equals, either by Word, Deed, or Writing. He seems indeed to suspect this Scheme of being chimerical. " Yet why,
 " says he, should not personal Quarrels be submitted
 " to Judges, as well as Questions of Possession; And
 " why should not a general Congress be appointed
 " for the general Good of Mankind " as well as for
 " so many Purposes of less Importance."

It is perhaps impossible to review the Laws of any Country without discovering many Defects, and many Superfluities. Laws often continue when their Reasons have ceased. Laws made for the first State of Society continue unabolished, when the general Form of Life is changed. Parts of the judicial Procedure, which were at first only accidental, become in Time essential; and Formalities are accumulated on each other, till the Art of Litterigation requires more Study than the Discovery of Right.

The King of *Prussia* examining the Constitutions of his own Country, thought them such as could only
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be amended by a general Abrogation, and the Establishment of a new Body of Law, to which he gave the Name of the CODE FREDERICK, which is comprized in one Volume of no great Bulk, and must therefore unavoidably contain general Positions, to be accommodated to particular Cases by the Wisdom and Integrity of the Courts. To embarrass Justice by Multiplicity of Laws, or to hazard it by Confidence in Judges, seem to be the opposite Rocks on which all civil Institutions have been wrecked, and between which legislative Wisdom has never yet found an open Passage.

Of this new System of Laws, contracted as it is, a full Account cannot be expected here; but that Curiosity may not be dismissed without some Gratification, the following Epitome of his Majesty's *Plan for the Reformation of his Courts*, has been drawn up.

The Differences which arise between Members of the same Society may be terminated by a voluntary Agreement between the Parties, by Arbitration, or by a judicial Process.

The two first Methods produce more frequently a temporary Suspension of Disputes than a final Termination. Courts of Justice are therefore necessary, with a settled Method of Procedure, of which the most simple is to cite the Parties, to hear their Pleas, and dismiss them with immediate Decision.

This however is in many Cases impracticable, and in others is so seldom practised that it is frequent rather to incur Loss than to seek for legal Reparation, by entering a Labyrinth of which there is no End.

This Tedioufness of Suits keeps the Parties in Disquiet and Perturbation, rouses and perpetuates Animosities,

infortities, exhausts the Litigants by Expence, retards the Progress of their Fortune, and discourages Strangers from settling.

These Inconveniencies, with which the best regulated Politics of *Europe* are embarrassed, must be removed not by the total Prohibition of Suits, which is impossible, but by Contraction of Processes; by opening an easy Way for the Appearance of Truth, and removing all Obstructions by which it is concealed.

The Ordinance of 1667. by which *Lewis XIV.* established an Uniformity of Procedure through all his Courts, has been considered as one of the greatest Benefits of his Reign.

The King of *Prussia* observing that each of his Provinces had a different Method of judicial Procedure, proposed to reduce them all to one Form, which being tried with Success in *Pomerania*, a Province remarkable for Contention, he afterwards extended to all his Dominions, ordering the Judges to inform him of any Difficulties which arose from it.

Some settled Method is necessary in judicial Procedures. Small and simple Causes might be decided upon the oral Pleas of the two Parties appearing before the Judge: But many Cases are so entangled and perplexed, as to require all the Skill and Abilities of those who devote their Lives to the Study of the Law.

Advocates, or Men who can understand and explain the Question to be discussed, are therefore necessary. But these Men instead of endeavouring to promote Justice and discover Truth, have exerted their Wits in the Defence of bad Causes, by Forgeries of Facts and Fallacies of Argument.

To remedy this Evil the King has ordered an Inquiry into the Qualifications of the Advocates. All

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those who practise without a regular Admission, or who can be convicted of disingenuous Practice are discarded. And the Judges are commanded to examine which of the Causes now depending have been protracted by the Crimes and Ignorance of the Advocates, and to dismiss those who shall appear culpable.

When Advocates are too numerous to live by honest Practice, they busy themselves in exciting Disputes, and disturbing the Community ; the Number of these to be employed in each Court is therefore fixed.

The Reward of the Advocates is fixed with due Regard to the Nature of the Cause, and the Labour required, but not a Penny is received by them till the Suit is ended, that it may be their Interest, as well as that of the Clients, to shorten the Process.

No Advocate is admitted in petty Courts, small Towns, or Villages ; where the Poverty of the People, and for the most Part the low Value of the Matter contested, make Dispatch absolutely necessary. In those Places the Parties shall appear in Person, and the Judge make a summary Decision.

There must be likewise allowed a Subordination of Tribunals, and a Power of Appeal. No Judge is so skilful and attentive as not sometimes to err. Few are so honest as not sometimes to be partial. Petty Judges would become insupportably tyrannical, if they were not restrained by the Fear of a superior Judicator, and their Decisions would be negligent or arbitrary, if they were not in Danger of seeing them examined and cancelled.

The Right of Appeal must be restrained, that Causes may not be transferred without End from Court
to

to Court ; and a peremptory Decision must at last be made.

When an Appeal is made to a higher Court, the Appellant is allowed only four Weeks to frame his Bill, the Judge of the lower Court being to transmit to the higher all the Evidences and Informations. If upon the first View of the Cause thus opened, it shall appear that the Appeal was made without just Cause, the first Sentence shall be confirmed without Citation of the Defendant. If any new Evidence shall appear, or any Doubts arise, both the Parties shall be heard.

In the Discussion of Causes Altercation must be allowed ; yet to Altercation some Limits must be put. There are therefore allowed a Bill, an Answer, a Reply, and a Rejoinder, to be delivered in Writing.

No Cause is allowed to be heard in more than three different Courts. To further the first Decision, every Advocate is enjoined under severe Penalties not to begin a Suit till he has collected all the necessary Evidence. If the first Court has decided in an unsatisfactory Manner, an Appeal may be made to the second, and from the second to the third. The Process on each Appeal is limited to six Months. The third Court may indeed pass an erroneous Judgment, and then the Injury is without Redress. But this Objection is without End and therefore without Force. No Method can be found of preserving Humanity from Error, but of Contest there must sometimes be an End ; and he who thinks himself injured for Want of an Appeal to a fourth Court, must consider himself as suffering for the Publick.

There is a special Advocate appointed for the Poor.

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The Attornies who had formerly the Care of collecting Evidence, and of adjusting all the Preliminaries of a Suit, are now totally dismissed ; the whole Affair is put into the Hands of the Advocates, and the Office of an Attorney is annulled for ever.

If any Man is hindered by some lawful Impediment from attending his Suit, Time will be granted him upon the Representation of his Case.

Such is the Order according to which civil Justice is administered through the extensive Dominions of the King of *Prussia* ; which, if it exhibits nothing very subtle or profound, affords one Proof more that the Right is easily discovered, and that Men do not so often want Ability to find, as Willingness to practise it.

Having given this short Account of his Majesty's Attempt to reform the Laws of his Country, we shall now return to the War.

The Queen of *Hungary* being thus entangled on one Side, and freed from the most formidable of her Enemies, soon persuaded the *Saxons* to follow the Steps of the King of *Prussia*, and embrace the Offer of Peace. After which she took Possession of *Bavaria*, drove the Emperor after all his imaginary Conquests, to the Shelter of a neutral Town, where he was treated as a Fugitive, and the French driven successively from all their Conquests in *Bohemia*.

Marshal *Broglio*, as soon as he was convinced that the King of *Prussia*, had made a Peace with the Queen of *Hungary*, left *Fravenberg*, and directed his March to *Pyseck*, from whence he sent Orders for reassembling all the *French* and *Bavarian* Troops, which were scattered up and down in different Quarters ; and all together composed an Army of twenty thousand Men, including the Troops under the Command of Mess. *Boufflers* and *Aubigny*. The former he left at *Crunaw*,

naw, and the other at *Thein*, about five Leagues from *Pyseck*, and two from *Fravenberg*; with Orders to prepare themselves for a vigorous Defence in Case they were attacked. By these Precautions he hoped to remain in Quiet till the Recruits he expected from *France*, arrived; and upon Advice that twelve thousand Men were advanced to the Neighbourhood, he determined to meet them, intending afterwards to return and take Post in the Neighbourhood of *Fravenberg*.

These Dispositions were as well concerted, as the present Conjunction would admit, but they failed of the desired Success; for Prince *Charles* had used such Diligence, that his Vanguard appeared upon the *Moldau* when they least expected him. *M. d'Aubigny* not having Time to make any Disposition for the least Defence, was obliged to abandon *Thein*, and to repass the River, in Order to save his Detachment, without having Time even to break down the Bridge, so closely was he pursued by the Hussars. *M. de Boufflers*, who was also obliged to abandon *Crunaw*, retired to *Pracholitz*, and from thence to *Pyseck*, where the Gros of the Army were encamped; but not without the Loss of his Cannon, Baggage, and the greatest Part of his Detachment being cut to Pieces.

Prince *Charles*, after he had passed the *Moldau* with his whole Army, marched in two Columns, in Hopes of finding the *French* Troops; but Marshal *Broglio*, informed of his Motions, and having but twelve thousand Men to oppose to above forty thousand, divided his Army into three Bodies, of four thousand each. He then passed a Rivulet, betwixt the Enemy and him; and ranging his Men in Order of Battle, seemed disposed to hazard an Engagement with Prince *Charles*. So bold a Step in Presence of a formidable
Enemy

Enemy, not only encouraged his own Soldiers, but also made the Enemy cautious ; for though they appeared on the opposite Bank of the Rivulet, and even crossed it, the *Austrian* General did not think proper to attack them ; so that they only cannonaded each other, and skirmished, during the whole Day.

Night coming on, the *French* General took the Advantage of it, to steal a March upon the Enemy : he decamped without Noise, and marched with all possible Diligence for six Days, and on the seventh, arrived before Sun-set before *Pyseck* ; from whence he immediately departed, leaving in it a Garrison of twelve hundred Men. Prince *Charles* however came up the next Day and took it, as also *Pilsen* ; after which he continued his March towards *Prague*, in Pursuit of Marshal *Broglie*.

Though the *French* Army was encamped in the most advantageous Manner under the Cannon of *Prague*, yet it was reduced to such a State, that there was no Need for a Spirit of Prophecy to foretel that it must soon yield to superior Force, and receive such Terms as the Conqueror should think fit to impose.

The Queen of *Hungary* was withdrawing her Troops out of *Silesia*, and marching them into *Bohemia* : all the Passages leading from *France* and *Bavaria*, were shut against Men and Provisions ; and all Communication with *Saxony* cut off. These Inconveniences induced the Court of *France* to send full Powers to the two Generals to treat of an Agreement, with Respect to *Bohemia* ; but the *Austrian* Generals rejecting all Proposals, the Besieged prepared to make a vigorous Defence. The *French* Army within, and encamped without the City, amounted to about twenty two thousand Men.

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The Month of *July* was then beginning, and though some Passage to *Prague* were still open, Provisions were monstrously dear. Marshal *Broglio* made all necessary Preparations for a vigorous Defence; and all the Officers of his Army, exasperated at the Proceedings of the *Austrian* Generals, determined to defend themselves to the last Extremity. In order to prevent all Inconveniencies from the Intelligence which the *Austrians* might have with the Inhabitants, they were disarmed, Guards placed all over the Town, and their most valuable Effects carried into a Church, as Pledges of their Conduct; a little Fortrefs was also built for further Security, and several Redoubts mounted with Cannon.

The grand Duke who arrived at the Camp before *Prague*, gave Orders for hastening the Works of the Siege, for which an immense Artillery was brought; and on the 28th of *July* the Place was invested on all Sides. The Besieged made several Sallies, which were not favourable to them; and the Scarcity of Provisions was an equal if not a greater Perplexity than all the Dispositions of the Besiegers. *M. de Seckellis*, who was Purveyor of the Army, had taken such wise Precautions for storing the Magazines, that the Troops could not be said to want Bread, though remarkably bad; and besides this they had no other Provisions. There was therefore a Necessity for killing the Horses, and distributing their Flesh among the Troops; and with it they also made Broth for the Sick, who were very numerous. The Officers was often reduced to feed as the Soldiers; but to what will not People accustom themselves, when Necessity prescribes?

Of all the Sallies made by the Besieged, the most remarkable was that of the 22d of *August*. At a Counsel of War held the 21st, at which all the general

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neral Officers assisted, it was resolved that a Sally should be made the next Day with twelve thousand Men, commanded by the Duke of *Biron*. Accordingly on the 22d at three in the Afternoon, while the grand Duke was at Table, Word was brought him that a great Number of Troops appeared on the Walls of *Prague*. Prince *Charles*, Count *Konigseck*, General *Festitz*, and several other general Officers, were with him, a general Council being to be held that Day after Dinner, which was very sumptuous: for though the *French* were in great Want, Provisions were plenty in the *Austrian* Camp. When the Advice was first brought in, Prince *Charles*, cried, "What, will they not give us Time to eat our Dinner!" But one of the Grand Duke's Adjutants coming directly, and confirming the same Advice, the Prince rose from Table, and going upon a high Ground, perceived distinctly, by the Help of a Spying Glass, that what he had been told was true; for he saw not only the Walls filled with Troops, but also the red Flag, which the Besieged had hoisted, as a Signal of some desperate Resolution. He immediately gave Orders for some Regiments to march out of the Camp, to support the Troops in the Trenches, and those that guarded the Batteries.

Towards four in the Afternoon, The *French*, with the Duke of *Biron* at their Head, sallied out, extending themselves to the Right and Left and fell with such Impetuosity upon the Approaches, that they drove all before them, Workmen and Soldiers, who were in the Trenches, putting all to the Sword who came in their Way without Distinction, and without Quarter.

Their Attack was so furious, that they penetrated to the first Parallel; threw down the Gibions; filled up great Part of the Trenches; made themselves Masters of a Battery of twelve Pieces of Cannon,
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nailing up what they could not send to the Town ; took three Pair of Colours ; and made above two hundred Prisoners, among whom was old General *Monti*, who commanded the Artillery and Engineers. After so considerable an Advantage, they ought no Doubt to have retired ; but hurried on by their natural Ardour, they engaged themselves farther than was prudent ; and were stopped in the Midst of their Career, by a Body of Troops detached from the Camp.

There was now a Necessity for coming to a close Engagement : The Regiment of *Navarre*, with their Bayonets fixed, charged two Regiments of *Austrian* Dragoons dismounted, where there was a dreadful Slaughter on both Sides ; at the same Time the King's Regiment was attacked by that of *Szirma Hungarians*, and suffered greatly. In fine, after two Hours very hot Engagement on both Sides, the *French* were obliged to retire, not being able to support themselves any longer against the *Austrians*, whose Numbers augmented every Moment by fresh Troops from the Camp. They however made their Retreat in good Order, carrying with them the Cannon, Colours, and Prisoners.

After this memorable Sally the Besieged made only small Ones as Occasion required. In the mean Time the Scarcity became still greater in the Town ; till at last it became intolerable.

The Grand Duke having learned, in the Beginning of *September*, that Marshal *Maillebois*, was in full March with an Army, to relieve the Besieged ; and doubting of Success in his Enterprize against *Prague* began to think of raising the Siege : Accordingly on the 8th he caused his Artillery to be transported to *Pysek* ; and on the 14th at 5 in the Morning, his whole Army decamped, and took the Road to *Braun*

and *Pilsen*, leaving only some light Troops before *Prague*, to block up the Place ; but the *Austrian* Troops were no sooner at a certain Distance, than the Gates were thrown open, and the *French* sent out Parties into all the adjacent Villages to procure Provisions. Marshal *Broglie*, also departed from *Prague* with twelve thousand Men, in order to join Marshal *Maillebois*, but this the *Austrians* prevented.

The Court of *France* disappointed and offended, conferred the chief Command of *Maillebois's* Army on Marshal *Broglie*, who found Means to keep the *Austrians* employed, till *Belliste*, by a sudden Sally quitted *Prague*. *Broglie* then retired over the *Rhine* into the *French* Dominions, wasting in his Retreat, the Country he had undertaken to protect, and burning Towns and destroying Magazines of Corn with such Wantonness as gave Reason to believe that he expected Commendation from his Court for any Mischiefs done by whatever Means.

The *Austrians* pursued their Advantages recovered all their strong Places, in some of which *French* Garrisons had been left, and made themselves Masters of *Bavaria* ; by taking not only *Munich* the Capital, but *Ingoldstadt* the strongest Fortification in the Elector's Dominions, where they found a great Number of Cannon and a large Quantity of Ammunition intended in the Dreams of projected Greatness for the Siege of *Vienna*, all the Archives of the State, the Plate and Ornaments of the electoral Palace, and what had been considered as most worthy of Preservation. They however took nothing away except the warlike Stores. An Oath of Allegiance to the Queen was required of the *Bavarians* but without any Explanation whether temporary or perpetual.

The Emperor lived at *Frankfort* in the Security that was allowed to neutral Places ; but without much
Respect

Respect from the *German* Princes, except upon some Objections made by the Queen to the Validity of his Election, the King of *Prussia* declared himself determined to support him in the imperial Dignity with all his Forces.

This might be considered as a Token of no great Affection to the Queen of *Hungary*, but it seems not to have raised much Alarm. The *German* Princes were afraid of involving their Country in new Misfortunes. To contest the Election of an Emperor once invested and acknowledged, would be to overthrow the whole *Germanick* Constitution. Perhaps no Election by Plurality of Suffrages was ever made among human Beings, to which it might not be objected that Voices were procured by illicit Influence.

Some Suspicions, however, were raised by the King's Declaration, which he endeavoured to obviate by ordering his Ministers to declare at *Vienna* and *London*, that he was resolved not to violate the Treaty of *Breslaw*. This Declaration was sufficiently ambiguous, and could not satisfy those whom it might silence. But this was not a Time for nice Disquisitions; to distrust the King of *Prussia* might have provoked him, and it was most convenient to consider him as a Friend, till he appeared as an open Enemy.

About the Middle of the Year 1744, he raised new Alarms by collecting his Troops and putting them in Motion. The Earl of *Hindford* about this Time demanded the Troops stipulated for the Protection of *Hanover*; not perhaps because they were tho't necessary, but that the King's Designs might be guessed from his Answer, which was, that Troops were not granted for the Defence of any Country till that Country was in Danger, and that he could not be-

lieve the Electorate of *Hanover* to be in much Danger of an Invasion, since the Elector had withdrawn the native Troops and put them into the Pay of *England*.

It was now evident that he had formed Designs which rendered it necessary that his Troops should be kept together, and the Time soon arrived when the Scene was to be opened. Prince *Charles* of *Lorraine* having chased the *French* out of *Bavaria*, lay for some Months encamped on the *Rhine*, endeavouring to pass it into *Alsace*. His Attempts had long been evaded by the Skill and Vigilance of the *French* General, till at last, *June 21, 1744*, he executed his Design and lodged his Army in the *French* Dominions, to the Surprise and Joy of a great Part of *Europe*. It was now expected that the Territories of *France* would, in their Turn, feel the Miseries of War, and the Nation which had so long kept the World in Alarm, be taught at last the Value of Peace.

The King of *Russia* now saw the *Austrian* Troops at a great Distance from him, engaged in a foreign Country against the most powerful of all their Enemies. Now, therefore, was the Time to discover that he had lately made a Treaty at *Frankfort* with the Emperor, by which he had engaged, “ That as
“ the Court of *Vienna* and its Allies appeared backward to re-establish the Tranquility of the Empire, and more cogent Methods appeared necessary, he, being animated with a Desire of co-
“ operating towards the Pacification of *Germany*,
“ should make an Expedition for the Conquest of
“ *Bohemia*, and to put it into the Possession of the
“ Emperor, his Heirs and Successors for ever, in
“ Gratitude for which the Emperor should resign to
“ him and his Successors, a certain Number of
“ Lordships,

“ Lordships, which are now Part of the Kingdom
 “ of *Bohemia*. His imperial Majesty likewise guaran-
 “ ties to the King of *Prussia* the perpetual Possessi-
 “ on of upper *Austria*, as soon as he shall have oc-
 “ cupied it by Conquest.”

In Prosecution of this Treaty he put his Troops in Motion, and, according to his Promise, while the *Austrains* were invading *France*, he invaded *Bohemia*.

Princes have this remaining of Humanity, that they think themselves obliged not to make War without a Reason; though their Reasons are not always satisfactory. *Lewis XIV.* seemed to think his own Glory a sufficient Motive for the Invasion of *Holland*. The *Czar* of *Muscovy* attacked *Charles XII.* of *Sweden*, because he had not been treated with sufficient Respect when he made a Journey in Disguise. Nor did the King of *Prussia* attack the Queen of *Hungary* without publishing his Reasons, which appeared in a Manifesto on the 30th of *July*, in which he declares;

That he can no longer stand an idle Spectator of the Troubles in *Germany*, but finds himself obliged to make Use of Force to restore the Power of the Laws, and the Authority of the Emperor.

That the Queen of *Hungary* had treated the Emperor's hereditary Dominions with inexpressible Cruelty.

That *Germany* had been over-run with foreign Troops, which had marched through neutral Countries without the customary Requisitions.

That the Emperor's Troops had been attacked under neutral Fortresses, and obliged to abandon the Empire of which their Master is the Head.

That the imperial Dignity had been treated with great Indecency by the *Hungarian* Troops.

That

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That the Queen by declaring the Election of the Emperor void, and the Diet of *Frankfort* illegal, had not only violated the imperial Dignity, but injured all the Princes, who have the Right of Election.

That he had no particular Quarrel with the Queen of *Hungary*, that he desired Nothing for himself, and only entered as an Auxiliary into a War for the Liberty of *Germany*.

That the Emperor had offered to quiet his Pretensions to the Dominions of *Austria*, on Condition of his hereditary Countries being restored to him.

That this Proposal had been made to the King of *England* at *Hanau*, and rejected in such a Manner, as shewed that the King of *England* had no Intention to restore Peace, but rather to make his Advantage of the Troubles.

That the Mediation of the *Dutch* had been desired, but that they had declined to interpose, knowing the Inflexibility of the *English* and *Austrian* Courts.

That the same Terms were again offered at *Vienna* and again rejected, and therefore the Queen must impute it to her own Councils, that her Enemies find new Allies.

That he was not fighting for any Interest of his own ; that he demanded Nothing for himself, but was determined to exert all his Power in Defence of the Emperor, in Vindication of the Right of Election, and in Support of the Liberties of *Germany*, which the Queen of *Hungary* would enslave.

When this Declaration was sent to the *Prussian* Minister in *England*, it was accompanied with a Remonstrance to the King, in which many of the foregoing

going Positions were repeated ; the Candour and Disinterestedness of the Emperor magnified ; the dangerous Designs of the *Austrians* displayed ; and it was imputed to them as the most flagrant Violation of the *Germanic* Constitution, that they had driven the Emperor's Troops out of the Empire.

This Declaration astonished *Austria* and all her Allies, as it at once dismounted them from the Summit of Success, and obliged them to fight through the War a second Time. What Succours or what Promises *Prussia* received from *France* has never been publickly known, but it may reasonably be supposed that they were something extraordinary, as the Assistance of the former was then so absolutely necessary at that Time to the latter.

The *French*, who from ravaging the Empire at Discretion, and wasting whatever they found, either among Enemies or Friends, were now driven into their own Dominions, and in their own Dominions were insulted and pursued, were on a Sudden by this new Auxiliary restored to their former Superiority, at least were disburthened of their Invaders, and delivered from their Terrors. And all the Enemies of the House of *Bourbon* saw with Indignation and Amazement, the Recovery of that Power which they had with so much Cost and Bloodshed brought low, and which their Animosity and Elation had disposed them to imagine yet lower then it really was.

The *Prussian* Manifesto was not however long without an Answer, which was transmitted to the *European* Princes, with some Observations on the *Prussian* Minister's Remonstrance to the Court of *Vienna*, which he was ordered to read but not deliver to the *Austrian* Council.

The Queen in her Answer after charging the King of *Prussia* with breaking the Treaty of *Breslaw*,
and

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and observing how much her Enemies will exult to see the Peace now broken the third Time by him, declares ;

That she had no Intention of injuring the Rights of the Electors, and that it was the Manner of the Election, not the Event that she called in Question.

That she had spared the Emperor's Troops with great Tenderness, and that they were driven out of the Empire only because they were in the Service of *France*.

That she was so far from disturbing the Peace of the Empire, that the only Commotions now raised in it, are the Effect of the Armaments of the King of *Prussia*.

Nothing is more tedious than publick Records when they relate to Affairs which by Distance of Time or Place lose their Power to interest the Reader. Every Thing grows little as it grows remote, and of Things thus diminished it is sufficient to survey the Aggregate without a minute Examination of the Parts. This Method we have pursued with Regard to the *Prussian* Manifesto and Answer of the Queen of *Hungary*.

The King of *Prussia* took all possible Precautions to secure the Success of his Enterprize. He was to invade a Country guarded only by the Faith of Treaties, and therefore left unarmed, and unprovided for all Defence. He had engaged the *French* to attack Prince *Charles* before he should repass the *Rhine*, in order to prevent the speedy March of the *Austrians* into *Bohemia* ; they were also to yield him such other Assistance as the Exigency of Affairs might require.

Campaign of 1744.

Relying therefore on the Promises of the *French*, he resolved to attempt the Ruin of the House of *Austria*,

Austria, and accordingly in the Month of *August*, 1744, entered *Bohemia* at the Head of a hundred and four thousand Men. On passing the Frontiers of that Kingdom he published a Proclamation, in which he promised, that his Army should observe the strictest Discipline, and that those who made no Resistance should be suffered to remain quietly in their Habitations. He required that all Arms, in whatever Custody they might be placed, should be delivered up, and put into the Hands of publick Officers. He still declared himself to act only as an Auxiliary to the Emperor, and with no other Design than to establish Peace and Tranquility in *Germany*.

His Progress was such as gave great Hopes to the Enemies of *Austria*; like *Cæsar* he conquered as he advanced, and met with no Opposition till he reached the Walls of *Prague*.

Siege of Prague.

His *Prussian* majesty arrived before the City of *Prague* on the 2^d of *September*, and though his Artillery did not come up till some Time after, he attacked and carried some advanced Posts; but was soon informed that the Convoy which guarded his Artillery had been attacked by an unexpected Party of the *Austrians*. On receiving this Advice he marched immediately to their Assistance with the third Part of his Army, and found his Troops put to Flight, and the *Austrians* hastening away with his Cannon, a Loss which would have rendered all his Designs abortive. He fell upon the *Austrians*, whose Number would not admit of their contending with him, were obliged to abandon their important Conquest, and seek their Safety in their Flight. Having thus recovered his Artillery, his Majesty returned towards *Prague*, and after defeating General *Bathiani*,
G made

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made himself Master of several Redoubts and Bastions erected by the *French* during the last Siege. Being in Possession of these Batteries, he played his Cannon and Mortars incessantly against the City, Part of which was soon demolished. He then ordered four Attacks to be made at once, and reduced the Besieged to such Extremities, that in fourteen Days, namely, on the 16th of *September*, the Governor was obliged to capitulate.

At one of the abovementioned Attacks commanded by General *Schwerin*, a Grenadier mounted the Bastion alone, and defended himself with his Sword, till his Followers came to his Assistance ; for which Act of Bravery, the King placed him at the Marshal's Table in his Grenadier's Habit, promoted him to the Rank of Lieutenant, and ennobled him by Patent.

On the Reduction of *Prague*, the King caused a Medal to be struck, on one Side of which was the Plan of the Town with this Inscription.

Prague taken by the King of Prussia.

September 16. 1744.

For the third Time in three Years,

And on the other Side a German Distich to this Effect.

*Make Wars, O Lord, by War to cease;
And let this Conquest lead to Peace.*

After leaving a Garrison of six thousand Men in *Prague*, with a large Train of Artillery, he marched forward with the Rapidity which constitutes his military Character, took Possession of almost all *Bohemia*,
and

and began to talk of entering *Austria*, and besieging *Vienna*.

It was therefore now Time for the *Austrians* to abandon their Project of invading *France*, and apply their whole Power to their whole Defence. Accordingly Prince *Charles* received Orders to repass the Rhine. This the *French*, by their Contract with the *Prussians*, should have done all in their Power to hinder; but Experience had sufficiently informed them, that the *Austrians* would not be beat without Resistance, and that Assistance always incommodes an Assailant. As the King of *Prussia* rejoiced in the Distance of the *Austrians*, whom he considered as intangled in the *French* Territories; the *French* rejoiced in the Necessity of their Return, and pleased themselves with the Prospect of easy Conquests, while Powers which they considered with equal Malevolence should be employed in massacring each other.

Prince *Charles* took the Opportunity of a bright Moonshine to repass the Rhine, and Marshal *Noailles*, who had early Intelligence of his Motions, gave him very little Disturbance, contenting himself with falling on his Rearguard, but continued his Pursuit no farther than when they joined the main Body.

It must not, however be supposed that the Queen was absolutely destitute of Resource during the Absence of Prince *Charles*. The Elector of *Saxony*, whether invited or not, was not comprized in the Union of *Frankfort*, and as every Sovereign is growing less in Proportion, as his Neighbour is growing greater, he could not heartily wish Success to a Confederacy which was to aggrandize the other Powers of *Germany*. The *Prussians* also gave him a particular and immediate Provocation to oppose them; for in their March to make a Conquest of *Bohemia*,
they

they passed, with all the Elation of imaginary Success, through all his Dominions and even disdained his Authority. He was therefore, on the Approach of Prince *Charles*, which gave a new Prospect to Events, easily persuaded to join in an Alliance with the Queen, whom he furnished with a very large Body of Troops.

The King of *Prussia* flattering himself that Prince *Charles* would not find it easy to escape out of the *French* Territories, pushed on his Conquests in *Bohemia*; but was soon informed that the Prince had repassed the *Rhine*, and that the *French* either could not, or would not overtake him.

In a short Time, Prince *Charles* by Marches pressed on with the utmost Eagerness, reached *Bohemia*, leaving the *Bavarians* to regain the Possession of the wasted Plains of their Country, which their Enemies who still kept the strong Places, might again recover whenever they pleased.

The King of *Prussia* finding himself again deceived by the *French*, retired at the Approach of the *Austrian* Army, evacuating Post after Post, Town after Town, and Fortress after Fortress, without making the least Resistance.

It was indeed expected that he would have made some Effort to secure *Prague*, but after a faint Attempt to dispute the Passage of the *Elbe*, he ordered his Garrison to quit the Place immediately. This Order was executed with so much Precipitation, that they left behind them their Magazines and heavy Artillery, among which were seven Pieces of remarkable Excellence, called the *Seven Electors*; but took with them their Field Cannon, and a great Number of Carriages laden with Stores and Plunder, which they were forced to abandon in their Retreat, the Sax-

ons and *Austrians* harassing them prodigiously in their March.

The King of *Prussia* suffered greatly in his Retreat, for besides the military Stores, which he left every where behind him, there was a Want of Provisions in his Army, and consequently Desertions, and a long Train of Diseases.

At last he entered his own Territories, and having stationed his Troops in Places of Security, returned for a Time to *Berlin*, where he forbade all to speak either well or ill of the Campaign.

To what End such a Prohibition could conduce is not easy to discover, there is no Country in which Men can be forbidden to know what they know, and what is universally known may as well be spoken: Indeed in popular Governments seditious Discourses may inflame the Vulgar, but in such Governments they cannot be restrained, and in absolute Monarchies they are of little Effect. This Edict of his *Prussian* Majesty regarded only himself, and therefore it is difficult to tell what was his Motive, unless he intended to spare himself the Mortification of absurd and illiberal Flattery, which to a Mind stung with Disgrace, must have been in the highest Degree painful and disgusting.

Moderation in Prosperity, is a Virtue very difficult to all Mortals; Forbearance of Revenge, when Revenge is within Reach, is scarcely ever to be found among Princes. Now was the Time when the Queen of *Hungary* might perhaps have made Peace on her own Terms; but Keeness of Resentment and Arrogance of Success, withheld her from making a proper Use of the present Opportunity. It is said that the King of *Prussia*, in his Retreat sent Letters to Prince *Charles*, which were supposed to contain ample Concessions, but were sent back unopened

opened. His *Britannick* Majesty also offered his Mediation, but his Offers were rejected at *Vienna*, where a Resolution was taken not only to revenge the Interruption of their Success on the *Rhine*, by the Recovery of *Silesia*, but to reward the *Saxons* for their seasonable Help by giving them Part of the *Prussian* Dominions.

In the Beginning of the Year 1745. the Emperor *Charles* of *Bavaria* expired, the Treaty of *Frankfort* was consequently at an End, the King of *Prussia* being no longer able to maintain the Character of Auxiliary to the Emperor, and having pretended no other Cause for the War, might have honourably withdrawn his Forces, and on his own Principles have embraced the Terms of Peace : But no Terms were offered him ; the Queen pursued him with the utmost Ardor of Hostility, and the French abandoned him to his own Conduct, and to his own Destiny.

Campaign of 1745.

The Ardor on both Sides was so great, that the Troops were not suffered to lie idle in their Winter-Quarters, particularly in *Silesia*, where the *Prussians* made themselves Masters of *Tappau*, *Jagerdorf*, and other Places taken by the *Austrians*, who were obliged to retire into *Moravia*.

In the Month of *February* the *Prussians* attacked the Town of *Ratibor*, a Place in *Silesia*, where the *Austrians* had posted three thousand Men, and who were all either killed or made Prisoners. And in the County of *Glatz*, the *Prussians* attacked and routed twelve thousand *Austrians*, killing five hundred, and taking five hundred Prisoners, with three Pieces of Cannon.

In the Month of *April*, the Elector of *Bavaria* seeing his Dominions over-run by the *Austrians*, and
receiving

receiving very little Assistance from the *French*, made a Peace with the Queen of *Hungary* on easy Conditions and the *Austrians* had more Troops to employ against *Prussia*.

But the Revolutions of War will not suffer human Presumption to remain long unchecked. The Peace with *Bavaria* was hardly concluded, when the Battle of *Fontenoy* was lost, and all the Allies of *Austria* called upon her to exert her utmost Power for the Preservation of the *Low Countries*. And a few Days after the Loss at *Fontenoy*, the Battle between the *Prussians* and the combined Army of *Austrians* and *Saxons*, was fought at *Friedberg* in *Silesia*, the Particulars of which are as follows.

Battle of Friedberg.

The King of *Prussia* being informed the combined Army intended to enter *Silesia* towards the End of *May*, his Majesty about the Middle of the Month, withdrew his Troops from the *Upper Silesia*, except the Garrison of *Jagersdorf*, which was left to cover the Country on that Side. Soon after he received Advice that the *Austrian* Army was assembling at *Konigsgratz*, and that the *Saxons*, under the Command of *Saxe-Weissenfels* were to join them there. On this he ordered the *Marcgrave Charles* to withdraw his Troops from the Neighbourhood of *Jagersdorf*, and join him at the Camp marked out at *Frankenstein*, which the *Prussians* entered the 27th of *May*.

The *Marcgrave* during his March routed a Party of *Austrians*, and cut in Pieces three Regiments, two of Infantry, and one of Dragoons; after which he continued his March, and joined the royal Army on the 28th, in the Evening. Soon after the King
received

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received Advice that the *Austrians* were advanced to *Landshut*, on which he removed to the Camp of *Richenback*, and ordered General *du Moulin*, then at *Schweidnitz*, to do every Thing in his Power to lead the Enemy into a Belief, that the King's Design was to retreat, at their Approach, to *Breslau*. This Stratagem had the desired Effect; the *Austrians* and *Saxons* filled with ridiculous Prejudices to the Dishonour of the *Prussian* Arms, easily believed they would run away from them.

At the Enemy's Approach, the King marched with the greatest Silence between *Schweidnitz* and *Strigau*; the Vanguard, commanded by General *Moulin*, kept along the Sides of the Hills of *Strigau*, while General *Nassau*, with another Detachment, occupied a Wood that lay between both: All these Corps, as well as the main Body of the Army, encamped between Hills, where they could not be perceived. No Noise was suffered in the Camp, and Major-General *Winterfeld* was even ordered to send out small Parties, with Orders to retire at the first Motion of the Enemy; all which was done to keep up that false Security in which they were immersed.

Several successive Days were employed by the King of *Prussia* in reconnoitring all Places where the Enemy might advance, it not being his Intention to defend a Chain of Mountains sixteen *German* Leagues in Length, but to give them a warm Reception at their coming out of the Defiles.

On the third of *June* in the Morning, his Majesty repaired to the Camp of General *du Moulin*, and observed from thence that a great Part of the Enemy's Cavalry had passed the Defiles: And in the Afternoon he saw the Enemy advancing, in large Columns of Horse and Foot into the Plains of *Friedberg* and *Ron-*
flor;

loc ; upon which he ordered the Army to march at eight in the Evening to *Strigau*, and commanded General *Moulin*, with forty Squadrons and seven Battalions to take Post on the adjacent Hills. These Orders were well executed ; the Army arriving about Midnight at the Posts assigned them, without Noise or Lights.

On the 4th, at two in the Morning, the King assembled all the general Officers, and settled every Particular relative to the Battle ; and, in less than half an Hour, the Army moved to attack the Enemy. marching in Lines, and filing off on the Right. General *du Moulin* on observing some Battalions posted on a Hill in the Flank of the Army, immediately occupied another Hill facing them.

The Right of the *Prussian* Cavalry was formed near the Battalions commanded by the above General, by Marshal *Buddenbreck* and Lieutenant-General *Rottenburg*. Prince *Trieny* of *Anbault* occupied with three Battalions of Grenadiers, a small Wood on the Left of the Cavalry. The King formed his Infantry close to the Wood, but the Ground would not permit him to draw up at once more than fifteen Battalions out of thirty-two, which composed his first Line ; and perceiving the *Austrians* drawing up over against him, and their Cavalry advancing, he sent Orders to General *Nassau* to hasten with the left Wing of the Cavalry to a Meadow, which joined a Rivulet, where the Extremity of the Left was formed ; while M. *Kalckstein*, General of the Foot, who commanded the second Line, caused several Battalions to advance, in order to reinforce General *du Moulin*.

These Dispositions being finished, Prince *Leopold* of *Anbault-Dessau*, made the first Attack upon the *Saxon* Infantry, posted in a marshy Wood ; but the

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Battalion of Grenadier Guards, headed by Lieutenant-Colonel *Wedel*, drove them from the Marshes, without firing a single Shot. The Attack of the Cavalry on the Right succeeded that of the Infantry, and the whole left Wing of the Enemy was routed at the same Instant. The *Saxons*, in order to make a good Retreat, formed a Triangle of Infantry; but Lieutenant-General *Rottenburg*, at the Head of the Prince of *Prussia's* Regiment of Cuirassiers, cut the Regiment of *Schonberg* in Pieces; Lieutenant-Colonel *Juschinsky* of the Life-Guards, and Major *Froideville*, put two Troops of *Saxon* Grenadiers to the Sword: By which the Triangle was broken, and the *Saxons* totally routed

The whole Wing being routed, the King and the Margrave *Charles* at the Head of the *Prussian* left Wing, charged the *Austrians* with so much Vigour, that the *Austrians* every where gave Ground. In the mean Time the right Wing advanced, and with ten Squadrons of Horse commanded by General *Kyau*, bore down every Thing that opposed them. Soon after the *Austrians* retreated by three several Ways, and left the *Prussians* entirely Masters of the Field of Battle. The *Prussians* took sixty Pieces of Cannon, eight Pair of Kettle Drums, six Bobitzies, seven Standards, four Generals, near two hundred Officers, and above seven thousand Men.

In Consequence of this Victory, his *Prussian* Majesty advanced again into *Bohemia*, but made no great Progress. The Queen of *Hungary* though defeated, was not subdued. She poured in her Troops from all Parts to the Reinforcement of Prince *Charles*, and determined to continue the Struggle with all her Power. The King saw that *Bohemia* was an unpleasant and inconvenient Theatre of War, in which he should be ruined by a Miscarriage, and get little
by

by a Victory. He therefore determined to turn his Arms against *Saxony*, now left entirely defenceless.

Accordingly he published a Declaration against the Elector of *Saxony*, in which, after recapitulating, many unjust Proceedings of the *Saxons*, observed, that their Injustice in invading his Dominions, and the Protection of his own Subjects, had laid him under a Necessity of entering the Electorate of *Saxony*, in order to prevent the ambitious Designs of the King of *Poland*.

After publishing this Declaration, he immediately entered that Electorate, which drew on another Battle between the *Prussians* and combined Army of *Austrians* and *Saxons*.

Battle of Standentz.

The allied Army being again joined after their Defeat at *Friedberg*, endeavoured to surprize that of the *Prussians* then encamped at *Standentz* near *Prouchez*. In order to execute this Design they marched all Night, and attacked the *Prussians* at Break of Day. But notwithstanding their great Superiority in Numbers, they were entirely defeated, the *Prussians* charging them with such Impetuosity that after an obstinate Fight of four Hours, they were obliged to seek their Safety in their Flight. The *Prussians* took nineteen Pieces of Cannon, as many Standards, and near four thousand Prisoners. The *Austrians* had, in the Beginning of the Action, some Advantage, and their irregular Troops, who are always daring, and always ravenous, broke into the *Prussian* Camp, plundered the Baggage belonging to the King and principal Officers, and carried off the military Chest. But this was easily repaired by the Spoils of *Saxony*.

The Queen of *Hungary* was still inflexible, and hoped that Fortune would at last change. She re-
cruited

cruited once more her Army, and prepared to invade the Territories of *Brandenburg* in three Places at once ; but the King of *Prussia's* Activity prevented all her Designs, by transferring the Seat of the War from his own Dominions to those of *Saxony*, by marching through *Upper Mesnia*, cutting in Pieces four Regiments of *Saxon* Horse, and obliging the Duke of *Lorrain* to retire precipitately into *Bohemia*. At the same Time another Part of his Forces seized *Leipsic* ; and the Elector of *Saxony*, to avoid the Storm, left his Capital, and retired into *Bohemia*.

Battle of Dresden.

While the *Prussians* were employed in this Manner, the *Saxon* Generals drew together all the Troops in their Power, and being joined by a Detachment of *Austrian* Cavalry, commanded by Prince *Lobkowitz*, made a Stand between *Dresden* and *Pirna*. The *Prussian* General trusting to the Goodness of his Troops, attacked them, though double his Number, and obtained a complete Victory, killing great Numbers, and taking four thousand Prisoners, with all their Artillery. The King of *Prussia*, as a Conqueror, exacted very large Contributions from the whole Country, and the *Austrians* and *Saxons* were at last compelled to receive from him such a Peace as he thought proper to grant. He however imposed no severe Conditions except in the Payment of the Contributions, made no new Claim of Dominions, and, with the Elector Palatine acknowledged the Duke of *Tuscany* for Emperor.

Peace being thus re-established, his *Prussian* Majesty applied himself to cultivate the Commerce of his Subjects, and settle other useful Regulations, till he was again obliged to appear in Arms for the Defence of his Country.

In

In the Month of *January* 1756, a Treaty was concluded between his *Britannick* Majesty and the King of *Prussia*, and this furnished the Court of *Vienna* with a Pretence for forming an Alliance with the Court of *Versailles*, in which, however, it had a much farther View, and which it had been watching an Opportunity to effect. In Consequence of this Alliance, Treaties were drawn up between the Courts of *Vienna* and *Versailles*, under the Name of Treaties of Friendship and Neutrality, and to these Treaties the neighbouring Powers were formally invited to accede; in the mean Time the most solemn Assurances were made by the contracting Powers, that they had no other View than to preserve the general Tranquillity of *Europe*, and prevent the Flames of War that had been kindled between *Great Britain* and *France* from spreading to other Countries. But notwithstanding these Declarations, the King of *Prussia* soon discovered that the principal End proposed by the Empress in this Alliance, was the Recovery of *Silesia*, in which *France* concurred, because it was equally her Interest to reduce his Power; he saw that with this View a Minister from *Vienna* was sent to *Petersburg*, and that a Minister from *Versailles* was to follow; and he knew that as his Power was equally obnoxious to them all, it was probable they would readily concur in any Project to distress him. A very short Time convinced him that his Conjectures were true, and he received certain Intelligence, early in the Spring, that the two imperial Powers had agreed upon a Plan to unite their Forces and attack his Dominions. In this Situation he took every Measure that could be suggested by the utmost Vigilance and Magnanimity, and the *Russians* having soon after begun to march against him, he dispatched a Body of Troops sufficient to repel them towards *Pomerania*. The Designs of both Parties were

now

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now more apparent ; the Empress Queen published a Rescript, to justify the Motion of her Troops, in which she represented the Treaty between *Prussia* and *England* in such a Light, as reflected Dishonour upon both.

In answer to this Rescript, the King of *Great-Britain* caused the following Declaration to be made by his Electoral Minister, at the Diet of the Empire.

“ That his *Britannick* Majesty in his Quality of
 “ Elector of *Brunswick Lunenburg*, has heard with
 “ great Surprise, that some People have affected to
 “ put a wrong Construction on the Object of the
 “ Treaty of Friendship, which he concluded some
 “ Time ago with the King of *Prussia*, and that they
 “ have even endeavoured to represent it as a Matter
 “ wherein the State of Religion was concerned ; that
 “ nevertheless, the whole Empire knows, he has made
 “ it a Rule to support the Rights of each, without
 “ any Distinction of Persons ; to maintain Justice ;
 “ to enforce the Execution of the Laws and Constitu-
 “ tions of the Empire ; to protect its Liberties and the
 “ publick Peace ; and to contribute to keep up in the
 “ *Germanick* Body, such a System as appeared most
 “ conducive to its Safety. That, in Consequence of
 “ these Principles, he has neglected nothing
 “ that might most effectually tend to the Support
 “ of the House of *Austria*, even to the being ready
 “ to sacrifice all that was in his Power. That the
 “ Differences which have arisen between *Great Brit-*
 “ *ain* and *France*, about their Possessions in *America*,
 “ have given Birth to a Design in the latter Power
 “ to attack the Electoral Dominions of the House
 “ of *Brunswick Lunenburg* ; which was sufficiently
 “ known by the little Care they took to make a Mys-
 “ tery

“ tery of such a Project, so capable of creating Trou-
“ bles in the Empire; his *Britannick* Majesty, who
“ address’d himself to the Empress Queen, requiring
“ the Succours stipulated by Treaties, was not only
“ unable to obtain them, but, at the same Time, found
“ the Court of *Vienna* as little inclined to grant another
“ Request, altogether as reasonable; which was,
“ to employ her good Offices towards altering the
“ Dispositions of such of the States of the Empire,
“ as, through Indifference, seem’d to favour, in some
“ Measure, that intended Invasion: That his *Brit-*
“ *annick* Majesty thereby found himself under a Ne-
“ cessity of concluding an Alliance with the King of
“ *Prussia*, for the Security of their respective Do-
“ minions, as also for preserving Peace and Tran-
“ quillity in the Empire, protect’g the System es-
“ tablished therein, and defending the Rights and
“ Privileges of the Members of the *Germanic* Body;
“ without any Prejudice to either of the Religions
“ exercis’d in the Empire, the contracting Parties
“ having had no Views in that Treaty but such
“ as are perfectly consistent with those salutary
“ Objects.

“ That while Matters stood thus, the World was
“ surpris’d with the unexpected Event of the Treaty
“ of Alliance which her Majesty, the Empress Queen,
“ has been pleas’d to conclude with a Potentate, who,
“ for above two Centuries past, has dismembered the
“ most considerable Provinces of the Empire; has
“ attacked and invaded her archducal House; has
“ fomented Troubles and Divisions in our dear Coun-
“ try, and made such Means subservient to her own
“ ambitious Views, by usurping whatever lay con-
“ venient for her; that the Inconveniencies and Dan-
“ gers which this new Treaty must necessarily be
“ productive of, will, in time, be made manifest;
“ and as the Thing is not of such a Nature as to
“ require

“ require that one should any longer make a Myf-
 “ tery of it, his *Britannick* Majesty has thought it
 “ proper to explain himself clearly on this Head,
 “ in order to dissipate the Prejudices which may
 “ have been created by contrary Ideas or Suggest-
 “ tions, &c.

Soon after his *Britannick* Majesty had made this Declaration, the King of *Prussia* drew up his Answer to the imperial Rescript, as follows :

“ The King of *Prussia* was greatly surpris'd to
 “ hear that the Empress Queen endeavoured to per-
 “ suade the Publick, that he had given Occasion to
 “ the great military Preparations which were making
 “ in her Dominions. To discover the Falsity of this
 “ Charge, it will be sufficient to observe the *Æras*
 “ when the Motions among the Forces of each Party
 “ began.

“ It is notorious that the Court of *Vienna* began
 “ her Armaments in *Bohemia* and *Moravia* in the
 “ Beginning of *June*, soon after it had contracted
 “ new Engagements with *France*, and at a Time
 “ when neither the Empress Queen nor any of her
 “ Allies, had any Ground to apprehend a Surprise.
 “ His *Prussian* Majesty had the greater Reason to be
 “ attentive to these Dispositions, as he received Advice
 “ at the same Time of the March of a considerable
 “ Body of *Russian* Troops towards *Courland* ; which
 “ determined him to order a few Regiments to ad-
 “ vance into *Pomerania*, but he ordered them to
 “ halt as soon as he heard that the *Russians* had
 “ marched back. The present Armaments must be
 “ ascribed with a very ill Grace to this Motion of the
 “ *Prussian* Forces ; since the March of some *Prussian*
 “ Regiments towards *Pomerania*, ought naturally to
 “ give

“ give the Court of *Vienna* no more Umbrage, than
 “ the March of some *Austrian* Regiments towards
 “ *Tuscany* would give the King of *Prussia*.

“ Whilst the Preparations for War were carrying on
 “ with the utmost Vigour in *Bohemia* and *Moravia*,
 “ his *Prussian* Majesty contented himself with putting
 “ his Fortresses in *Silesia* in a Posture of Defence against
 “ a sudden Attack, and marching some Regiments
 “ towards his Provinces in *Westphalia*. To this Day
 “ he hath not sent a single Regiment in *Silesia*, no
 “ Garrison hath marched out to take the Field, no
 “ Camp is formed, nor has he made any Motion
 “ towards the Territories of the Empress Queen.
 “ To prove this, we will venture to appeal to the
 “ Testimony of the Court of *Vienna* itself, which
 “ in its circular Rescript alledges only uncertain Re-
 “ ports that have been contradicted by the Event.
 “ They were informed (they say) that the *Prussian*
 “ Troops were to encamp on the Frontiers of *Bohemia*
 “ and *Moravia*, and that the Places of Encampment
 “ were already fixed on. But nothing of all this has
 “ hitherto appeared.

“ Notwithstanding the Tranquillity of the King of
 “ *Prussia*, the Empress Queen hath continued her
 “ Armaments, she hath ordered Troops to advance
 “ from her most distant Provinces, and by her own
 “ Acknowledgment she hath assembled a formidable
 “ Army in *Bohemia* and *Moravia*. On Sight of these
 “ Motions executed on the Frontiers of *Silesia*, the
 “ King of *Prussia* found himself obliged to demand
 “ of the Court of *Vienna*, by his Minister Mr. *de*
 “ *Klinggraff* a friendly and sincere Explanation with
 “ Regard to these military Preparations. But the
 “ Answer given was so dry, ambiguous, and unsat-
 “ isfactory, that it gave his Majesty a Suspicion of
 “ a Design formed against his Dominions; especially

“ as the Preparations in *Bohemia* and *Moravia* were
 “ continued, and even doubled, and not only Camps
 “ were formed, but Lines drawn across the Frontiers
 “ of *Silesia*, as in a Time of open War. Things
 “ being in this Situation, it was natural for the
 “ King of *Prussia* to think of himself, and no Person
 “ can justly blame him for taking Measures to avoid
 “ being surpris'd and crush'd in his own Ter-
 “ ritories.

“ The Court of *Vienna* is challenged to point out
 “ any other Object of the King of *Prussia*'s Arma-
 “ ments, but the Defence and Security of his Do-
 “ minions. As to the present Conduct of the im-
 “ perial Court, it is easy for the impartial Publick to
 “ find a Key to it, by combining the Æra of its
 “ first Armaments with what it so industriously gives
 “ out, namely that they are no less designed to pro-
 “ vide for the Security of its Dominions, than to
 “ fulfil its Engagements with its Allies. Whatever
 “ may be in this, Peace and War are in the Power
 “ of the Empress Queen. The King of *Prussia*, not
 “ being satisfied with her first Answer, ordered M.
 “ *Klinggraff* his Minister to demand a categorical
 “ Explanation from that Princess. If her imperial
 “ Majesty's pacific Intentions be really as pure and
 “ sincere as she assures them in all Places to be, it
 “ will be easy for her to convince the King of *Prussia*
 “ thereof : She need only give his Minister a clear,
 “ precise Declaration, free from all Ambiguity and
 “ Equivocation, which will effectually restore the
 “ publick Tranquillity.

“ We are willing to believe, on the Assurances of
 “ her Majesty the Empress Queen, that her late
 “ Treaty with his most christian Majesty contains
 “ no other Articles but what have been published ;
 “ and we promise ourselves, from the Integrity of
 her

“ her imperial Majesty, that she will agree to no
“ Project that may be contrary to the Interests of
“ Protestantism. But she cannot take it amiss that the
“ protestant Princes should be upon their Guard in
“ such a critical Conjunction as the present, when
“ the Validity of the Act of Security given by the
“ hereditary Prince of *Hesse-Cassel*, for maintaining
“ the established Religion, is openly attacked, and
“ a Discovery has been made of the secret Intrigues
“ of Count *Pergen*, the Emperor's Minister, and of
“ Baron *Kurtzrock*, to carry off that Prince, and take
“ him from under the Authority of the Landgrave of
“ *Hesse-Cassel* his Father; who hath publickly com-
“ plained thereof, but obtained no Satisfaction, &c.”

This Answer was presented by the *Prussian* Minister at the Court of *Vienna*: and almost at the same Time her imperial Majesty received the News of the Invasion of *Saxony*. Such is the Rapidity with which his *Prussian* Majesty plans and executes his Projects. He saw clearly the Designs form'd against him, and he saw as clearly the Necessity of removing the Calamities of War from his own Kingdom into that of his Enemy. His *Prussian* Majesty, however, caused a Memorial to be delivered to the Empress Queen, subsequent to the March of his Troops, in which he offers immediately to recall them, if she will solemnly declare that his Dominions shall not be invaded. In Answer to this Memorial her Majesty has caused another to be delivered to the King of *Prussia*, in which she has evaded the categorical Answer which he required. His *Prussian* Majesty therefore continues his Progress, and the particular Motives of his Conduct towards the Court of *Saxony* will best appear from what follows.

The 29th of *August*, Mr. *de Malzahn*, the *Prussian* Minister, having demanded a private Audience of the King of *Poland*, made the following verbal Declaration to his Majesty on the Part of the King his Master.

“ His Majesty the King of *Prussia* finds himself
 “ obliged, by the Behaviour of the Empress Queen,
 “ to attack her, and to march through the Territories
 “ of *Saxony* into *Bohemia* : He accordingly demands
 “ a Passage through the electoral Dominions of his
 “ *Polish* Majesty, declaring, that he will cause his
 “ Troops to observe the strictest Discipline, and take
 “ all the Care of the Country that the Circumstances
 “ will permit. His *Polish* Majesty, and his royal
 “ Family, may at the same Time depend upon being
 “ in perfect Safety, and of having the greatest Res-
 “ pect paid them on the Part of his *Prussian* Majesty.
 “ As to the Rest, after reflecting upon the Events
 “ of the Year 1744, there is no reason to be sur-
 “ prised that the King of *Prussia* should take such
 “ Measures, as may prevent a Return of what then
 “ happened. Moreover, he desires nothing so much
 “ as a speedy Re-establishment of Peace, in order to
 “ give him the happy Opportunity of restoring the
 “ King of *Poland* to the quiet Possession of his Do-
 “ minions, against which he has not, in other Respects
 “ formed any dangerous Designs.”

M. *de Malzahn* added, “ That the Necessity which
 “ the King his Master was under of acting in this
 “ Manner, could only be imputed to the Calamity
 “ of the Times, and the Behaviour of the Court of
 “ *Vienna*.

The King in the Surprise which this Declaration threw him into, answered M. *de Malzahn*.

“ That he should not have expected a Requisition
 “ in the Form that it had just been made to him ;
 “ that

“ that being at Peace with all the World, and under no Engagement relative to the present Object with any of the Powers actually at War, or those about to enter into it, he could not conceive the End of making such a Declaration ; but that he should give an Answer upon this Subject in writing, and hoped his *Prussian* Majesty, contenting himself with a quiet Passage, would neither forget the Respect due to a Sovereign, nor that which all the Members of the *Germanick* Body reciprocally owe to each other.”

Soon after this verbal Answer, the King caused the following to be delivered in writing to M. de *Malzahn*.

His Majesty the King of *Poland*, who desires nothing more ardently than the Peace of the *Roman* Empire, was extremely displeased to hear that some Differences had arisen between the King of *Prussia* and the Empress Queen, which might occasion the *Prussian* Troops to enter *Bohemia*. Nevertheless, as the Request has been made by his *Prussian* Majesty, the King of *Poland* will not refuse the Passage of those Troops through his Dominions, provided they do no Damage there, and for this his *Polish* Majesty relies upon the Declaration of the King of *Prussia*, that his Troops shall observe a strict Discipline. But on this Account it is necessary, and good Order requires, that his *Prussian* Majesty should previously make known at what Time, through what Place, and in what Number his Troops are to pass, in order that the King of *Poland* may appoint Commissaries, and give them proper Instructions to direct the Troops in their March.

“ The King at the same Time flatters himself, that the King of *Prussia*, as a Friend and good Neighbour, will pay a Regard to the bad Situation
“ of

“ of the Country, and the Scarcity occasioned by
 “ the indifferent Harvest this Year ; and that there-
 “ fore he will cause ready Money, and a Market Price,
 “ to be paid for every Thing that his Troops may have
 “ Occasion for, and likewise that he will let their Stay
 “ be as short as possible.

“ His *Polish* Majesty owns, that he cannot help
 “ being surprized at his *Prussian* Majesty’s observing
 “ in his Declaration, that the Reflection of what
 “ happened in the Year 1744, should occasion his
 “ taking Measures against the like Events ; the Dif-
 “ ference of the Situation of Affairs at that Time
 “ and now, being very great. The King has the
 “ strongest Reasons to keep stedfastly to the Treaty
 “ of *Dresden*, in Conformity to which he has as-
 “ siduously applied himself to cultivate the Friendship
 “ of the neighbouring Powers ; and it is upon this
 “ Principle that his *Polish* Majesty flatters himself, that
 “ the King of *Prussia* will rest satisfied of his Intention
 “ not to take any Part in the Differences which have
 “ arisen between his *Prussian* Majesty and the Em-
 “ press Queen, as he has already several Times de-
 “ clared to the *Prussian* Minister, and confirms by
 “ these Presents.

“ Such strong Assurances as these cannot but sa-
 “ tisfy the King of *Prussia*, and prevent his requiring
 “ any Thing of his *Polish* Majesty or his Subjects,
 “ contrary to the Liberty of a Prince of the Empire
 “ or that should oblige him to have Recourse to the
 “ *Germanick* Body, and the Guarantees of the Trea-
 “ ties of Peace, for the due Execution of those
 “ Treaties.”

When these Declarations were communicated to
 the different Powers whom his *Polish* Majesty thought
 proper to acquaint with his Situation, his Majesty al-
 so informed them, “ That being in Hopes that his
 “ Declarations

“ Declarations would make a favourable Impression
“ upon the King of *Prussia*, he was waiting for
“ their Success, when he learnt that the *Prussian*
“ Troops had entered his Electorate: That finding
“ it would be dangerous for him to stay in his Ca-
“ pital, he had thought proper to retire from thence,
“ in order to join his Army, and wait with his
“ Troops for future Events, trusting in the divine
“ Providence, and being persuaded that the Powers
“ of *Europe* will do Justice to the Uprightness of
“ the Principles upon which he regulated his Con-
“ duct, is an Event which must have surprized all
“ *Europe* as well as his Majesty.

Besides Lord *Stormont*, the *British* Minister, who
went on the Part of the King of *Poland* to wait up-
on the King of *Prussia* with the above Declaration,
his *Polish* Majesty likewise sent the Count *de Salmout*,
one of his Ministers. His *Prussian* Majesty received
them very politely, heard their Proposals, and told them,
“ That he himself wished for nothing more than to
“ find the King of *Poland*’s Sentiments acquiesce
“ with his Declarations: That the Neutrality which
“ his *Polish* Majesty seemed desirous to observe,
“ was exactly what he required of him; but that in
“ order to render this Neutrality more secure, and
“ less liable to Variation, it would be proper for his
“ *Polish* Majesty to separate his Army, and send the
“ Troops he had assembled at *Pirna* back into
“ their Quarters; that a Step of this Nature would
“ be a full Proof of a Neutrality not to be doubted
“ of; and that after this, he should take a Pleasure
“ in shewing, by an equal Condescension, his Dispo-
“ sition to give real Marks of his Friendship for
“ his *Polish* Majesty, and concert with him what
“ Measures might be proper to be taken according to
“ the Situation of Affairs.”

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In the mean Time the Queen of *Hungary* prevail-
ed upon the Empress of *Russia*, of which the follow-
ing are the principal Conditions.

1. Her imperial Majesty engages to employ all her Forces, whensoever it shall be required, to enforce the Execution of what is by that Treaty stipulated.
- 2. The King of *France* guaranties to the Empress of *Russia* in Perpetuity, the Order of Succession, as she has established it in Favour of her Nephew, the Duke of *Holstein*, and his Descendants, promising to perform that Guaranty as well by his good Offices as by giving all necessary Assistance.
- 3. The King guaranties to the Empress all her Conquests made in *Sweden*, in such Manner as never to support any Claims which may at any Time hereafter be made thereto.
- 4. The two contracting Powers shall as far as in them lies, contribute to support the archducal House of *Austria*, and to secure the Indivisibility of her Estate as settled by the pragmatick Sanction.
- 5. The Empress engages to assist both or either of the Parties, if the Case requires it with thirty thousand Men, when a Requisition thereof shall be made.
- 6. When Providence shall inspire one of the Parties at War with a Desire of Peace, and Proposals for an Accommodation shall be made, the three Powers shall unite and act in Concert in laying the improveable Foundations of a solid Peace; and employ for that End all their Forces as well as all their Mediation.
- 7. The King and the Empress shall conclude a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation, to the reciprocal Advantage of their Subjects; for which Purpose a Tariff shall be drawn up, as was done in the Time of *Peter the Great*.
- 8. The End of the contracting Powers being to prevent the Fire of War already burning between *Great-Britain* and *France* from spreading any farther,
they

they will use their best Offices with the King of *Prussia* to accommodate the Differences which subsist between him and the Court of *Vienna*.---9. And as it is necessary for the Re-establishment and Preservation of Peace, that the *Grand Signior* should be encouraged in his pacific Sentiments, the contracting Powers shall study to maintain a good Understanding with him.

Such was the Situation of Affairs about the Middle of the Year 1756, when his *Prussian* Majesty being fully convinced that he must have Recourse to Arms, he did not waste the Time in fruitless Negotiations, but pursued the only Method he had left of securing his Dominions, and disappointing the ambitious Views of his Enemies.

Campaign of 1756.

It appearing from the Behaviour of the Court of *Vienna* that War was determined upon, the King took all possible Precautions for making the most proper Resistance. And accordingly he conferred the chief Command of the Army destined to act in *Prussia* on Marshal *Lehwald*, and of that in *Silesia* on Marshal *Schwerin*, reserving the principal Command of the principal Army, which was intended to act in *Saxony* and *Bohemia*, for himself.

For some Years the Intrigues of the Court of *Saxony* had been no secret, her political Schemes, and military Projects had transpired, and it was well known that the *Saxon* Generals had pitched upon the important Post of *Pirna* for the general Rendezvous of their Troops, as the most convenient either for deceiving the *Prussians*, in Case they attempted to march into *Bohemia*, or for receiving Succours from the *Austrians*.

The Saxons, on the first Motion of the *Prussian* Troops for marching into *Pomerania*, or in Case of Necessity, for joining Marshal *Lehwald*, abandoned all their Garrisons bordering on *Brandenburg*, and took Post between the *Moldau* and the *Elbe*. They afterwards returned to their Quarters; and a second Time broke up, and repaired to their respective Cantonments. But his *Prussian* Majesty being no Stranger to the Motive on which they acted, took proper Measures, and marched with his Troops divided into three Columns towards *Pirna*. The first set out for the Dutchy of *Magdeburgh*, under the Command of Prince *Ferdinand of Brunswick*, directing their Route by *Leipsic*, *Borna*, *Kemnitz*, and, *Freyberg*, to *Cotta*. The second with the King at their Head, marched through *Pretsch*, *Torgau*, *Lonmatsch*, *Wilsdruff*, *Dresden* and *Zebest*. The third, commanded by the Prince of *Brunswick Bevern*, crossing *Lusatia*, took their Route through *Elsterwarde*, *Bautzen*, *Stolpe*, to *Lohmn*.

These three Columns arrived on the very same Day at the Camp of *Pirna*, which they invested. But before we proceed to relate the subsequent Facts, it will be necessary to give a short Description of the Post of *Pirna*.

The Post joined on the Right to the Fortrefs of *Sonnenstein*; on the Left to that of *Konningstein*. The Front was inaccessible; Nature in this extraordinary Spot seems to have delighted in forming a Fortrefs without the Assistance of Art. If you imagine a craggy Rock in some Parts covered with vast Pine-trees of which the Saxons had felled great Numbers, you will have a tolerable Idea of the Place. The *Elbe* flows behind *Sonnenstein* and *Pirna*, amidst inaccessible Rocks.

The *Prussians*, soon after their Encampment round this Spot, perceived, that notwithstanding the Inferiority of the *Saxon* Army, the advantageous Situation of the Ground was so great, that it could not be attacked without considerable Loss. It was therefore determined to turn the Siege into a Blockade, and to treat the *Saxon* Army rather as a Town besieged, than the Encampment of an Army.

The *Saxons*, on the other Hand did all in their Power to induce the *Prussians* to proceed on their March, and leave them behind without attacking them. But former Experience had taught the *Prussians* Wisdom, with regard to future Transactions. If, on one Hand, no Attack was thought advisable; so on the other no Enemy was to be left behind. They also resolved to leave an Army of Observation in order to prevent the *Saxons* from receiving any Succours from the *Austrians*.

In Consequence of these Resolutions, the *Prussians* took Possession of the Posts of *Leopoldsham*, *Marckersdorf*, *Hellendorf*, *Hennersdorf*, *Cotta*, *Zehist*, and *Sedlitz* as far as the *Elbe*, where they had a Communication with the Posts of *Lohm*, *Wlen*, *Obreswaden*, and *Schandau*, by Means of a Bridge; and in these different Places they distributed twenty-eight Battalions, and thirty Squadrons.

The rest of the Army consisting of twenty-nine Battalions and seventy Squadrons, took the Route of *Bohemia*, which they entered by Detachments, moving to *Peterswalde*, *Ausig* and *Jonsdorf*. This Body was commanded by Marshal *Keith*, by whose Orders General *Manstein* made himself Master of the Castle of *Ketschen*, taking an hundred *Austrians* Prisoners. The Marshal encamped at *Jonsdorf*, where he continued till the End of the Month.

Hitherto

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Hitherto Marshal *Brown* had kept close in his Camp at *Collin*; *M. de Piccolomini* lay at *Konigsgrätz*, and Marshal *Schwerin*, after passing through the Country of *Glatz*, had advanced to *Nacot*, afterwards to the Banks of the *Mettaw*, and lastly to *Auget*; where he routed a Detachment of Hussars and Dragoons, commanded by General *Bacof*, and took two hundred Prisoners. Afterwards the Marshal took Possession of the Camp at *Aujeft*, and foraged even to the Walls of *Konigsgrätz*.

Towards the End of September it was known that Marshal *Brown* had received Orders to disengage the Saxons. His Army was encamped at *Buden*, near the Conflux of the *Egra* with the *Elbe*; and for executing these Orders he had the Choice of three Ways; one by attacking and defeating Marshal *Keith's* Army, which was no easy Task; the second by marching to the Left through *Bilin* and *Toeplitz* to enter Saxony, which would expose his Flank to the Rear of the *Prussian* Army, and endanger the Loss of his Magazines at *Budin* and *Welfern*; the third by sending a Detachment thro' *Leumeritz*, and proceeding to the Saxons by the Way of *Boehmisch-Leipe*, and *Schandau*. The Method could not produce any Thing decisive, the Ground in the Neighbourhood of *Schandau* and *Ober-Raden*, being so difficult, that a small Body of Troops may stop a numerous Army.

The King of *Prussia* judged, however, that in so critical a Moment, his Presence might be necessary in *Bohemia*. Accordingly he left the Camp at *Sedlitz*, on the 28th, and the same Day reached the Camp at *Jonsdorf*. On the 29th the Army in *Bohemia* was ordered to march; the King going before with eight Battalions and 30 Squadrons, encamped at *Ti-mitz*, where the Scouts of the Army brought Advice,
that

that Marshal *Brown* was the next Day to pass the *Egra*.

Battle of Lowofitz.

Things being in this Situation, the *Prussian* Army was ordered to march nearer to the Enemy in order to observe their Motions, and awe them by appearing always ready for Action. On the 30th all the Troops followed the King in two Columns; but the Van had scarce gained the Height of *Bascopol*, when they perceived a Camp in the Plains of *Lowofitz*, its Right joining the *Elbe* and *Wilbota*, *Lowofitz* in its Front, and *Solowitz* on its Left, the Extremity of which was extended behind the Ponds of *Schirkowitz*. The Van continued its March to *Welmina*, a Village situated in a Bottom surrounded by Mountains, most of which are in the Form of a Sugar-Loaf.

The King ordered the Foot to advance with all possible Dispatch, occupy the Heights, and take Possession of all the Passes leading into the Plain of *Lowofitz*. The Army not arriving till very late, remained all Night in Columns, at a small Distance from the Vanguard.

The next Day being the first of *October*, the King sent at Day-break to reconnoitre the Enemy; but a thick Fog on the Plain prevented any clear Observation of Objects from the Eminences. The Town of *Lowofitz* appeared as through a Crape, and in the Plain between that Town and *Snotwitz*, two Columns of Cavalry were perceived, each consisting of about five Squadrons. It was now determined to draw up the Army, and immediately one Column of Infantry formed on the Right, the other on the Left, and the Cavalry composed a second Line. The
Ground

Ground on which the *Prussians* formed in Order of Battle, would contain only the six Squadrons of the Van, the Ground continuing to widen towards the Left.

The Declivity of these Mountains was covered with Vineyards, divided into a great Number of small Inclosures by Stone Walls about three Feet high, as belonging to different Persons. In these Vineyards Marshall *Brown* posted his *Pandours* in order to stop the *Prussians*; so that as every Battalion entered the Line, it was obliged to engage the Enemy. But the *Austrian* Fire being faint and unsteady, the *Prussians* were persuaded that Marshall *Brown* was retreated, and that the *Pandours* and Bodies of Cavalry seen in the Plain were his Rear.

This Opinion seemed confirmed from the Impossibility of seeing any Appearance of an Army. The Fog hid every Thing, and did not clear up till past eleven. Orders were given for cannonading the Cavalry in the Plain, upon which it several Times altered its Form. Sometimes it appeared numerous; sometimes drawn up Chequer-ways; sometimes in three contiguous Lines; at sometimes five or six Troops filed off to the Left, and disappeared.

The *Prussians*, weary at last with such trifling, concluded that by ordering twenty Squadrons of their Horse to charge, this Rear-guard would be dispersed, and an End put to the Action. Accordingly the Dragoons having formed at the Bottom of the Foot of the Eminence where the Infantry was posted, charged, and broke the *Austrian* Horse; but received a Flank Fire from the Infantry in *Lowositz* and *Subowitz*, which obliged them to return to their Post at the Foot of the Mountain. Before this they did not apprehend, that the *Austrians* were facing them with all their Forces.

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The King was then for placing the Cavalry behind the second Line ; but before this Order could be brought, prompted by their natural Impetuosity, and a Desire of signalizing themselves, charged a second Time, bore down all Opposition, passed through the same Flank Fire as before, pursued the Enemy above three hundred Paces, and, in the Excess of Ardour, crossed a Ditch ten Feet wide. Behind this Ditch, at the Distance of three hundred Paces was another, behind which appeared the *Austrian* Infantry, drawn up in Order of Battle. Sixty Pieces of Cannon immediately played on the *Prussian* Horse, which therefore repassed the Ditch, and returned to the Infantry at the Foot of the Mountain. The King would not admit of any more such Sallies, and therefore ordered the Cavalry to post itself in the Rear of the Infantry.

About this Time the Fire on the left Wing began to increase. Marshal *Brown* had successively brought on twenty Battalions, which, passing by *Lowositz*, lined the Banks of the *Elbe* to support the *Pandours* in the Vineyards, where the *Prussian* Infantry briskly drove them from one Wall to another ; and continuing to pursue them, several in their Flight threw themselves into the *Elbe*. At the same Time another Body sheltered themselves in the Houses of *Lowositz*, and, at first, made a Shew of defending them. The second Line of *Prussian* Infantry being mixed with the first, the left extended itself to the *Elbe*, and in this Manner marched to attack the *Austrians* in *Lowositz*. The Grenadiers fired into the Houses through the Doors Windows and Roofs, and then set them on Fire.

In this Action, though only the Attack of a Post, each Soldier of the left Wing fired ninety Shot. They had no more Powder nor Bullets for their Can-

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non, notwithstanding which, the Regiment *Itzenbleitz*, and *Manteufel* entered *Lowositz*, with their Bayonets fixed, driving before them nine fresh *Austrian* Battalions, which Marshal *Brown* had just posted there. The Battle concluded with a disorderly Flight of the *Austrians*.

Marshal *Brown* seeing the Confusion of his Troops, took the whole left Wing of his Infantry, which had not been attacked, and with them covered his broken Squadrons, which were flying in the utmost Confusion. In this Order he waited for the Approach of Night to retreat. Accordingly about Midnight he began his March towards his Camp at *Budin*, breaking down all his Bridges over the *Egra*.

The next Day the Prince of *Bevern* was detached with eight thousand Men to *Schirkowitz*, from whence he sent out Scouts on all Sides to reconnoitre the Passes.

This Battle lasted seven Hours, during which the Cannonading was incessant on both Sides; notwithstanding which the Loss of the *Prussians* was only six hundred and fifty-three killed, eight hundred wounded, and about 249 Prisoners, but that of the *Austrians* more than triple the Number.

The *Prussian* Army encamped on the Field of Battle where it continued without Molestation, foraging even within Cannon Shot of the Enemy's Army, few or no *Austrians* appearing.

Account of taking the whole Saxon Army,

On the sixth of *October* the *Prussians* received Advice, that Marshal *Brown* had made a Detachment, in which was his own Regiment; and that these Troops had moved to *Roudnitz*, and were advancing still nearer to the *Saxon* Army; also that this Body consisted of six thousand Men. Though the Weak-

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ness of this Detachment could cause little Apprehension, it was thought that the *Prussian* Army in *Saxony*, consisting only of thirteen Squadrons, might want a Reinforcement of Horse ; especially if the *Saxons* should attempt to force the Pass of *Hellendorf*, where the Cavalry might be usefully employed, especially in the Plains of *Peterswalde*. These Considerations determined the King to go thither in Person. Accordingly, setting out from *Lowositz*, on the thirteenth, with fifteen Squadrons of Dragoons, he arrived at his other Army on the fourteenth at Noon.

He found, that since the tenth great Alterations had happened in the Camp at *Pirna* ; and that the *Saxons* had that Day attempted to throw a Bridge over the River *Wilsch*. Near the Place where the *Saxons* made this Attempt was a Redoubt, from whence the *Prussians* fired on their Boats seven or eight of which were taken, and several sunk, so that they were obliged to abandon their Design. On this the *Saxons* altered their Measures, and finding it impossible to transport their Boats on the *Elbe*, where they had the Fire of three *Prussian* Redoubts to pass, they loaded them on Horses, and carried them in that Manner by Land to a Place called *Königsstein*, opposite to the Village of *Halbstädte*.

This Part of their Camp had long excited the Attention of the *Saxons*, as being the most proper Place for receiving Succours they expected from the *Austrian* Army.

But before we proceed farther, it will be necessary to give a short Description of this Part of the Country in order to render the ensuing Part of the Narrative more easy to be understood.

We have already observed that the Post of *Pirna* is remarkably fortified by Nature ; but then it has

this Defect, namely, that it is as difficult to come out of it, as to force it; accordingly, the Situation of the Ground, would admit the Saxons only to force a Passage by *Hermisdorf* and *Hellendorf*; and this would doubtless have been attended with a very great Loss, though there was a Probability of saving, by this Attempt, a Part, at least, of the Army. They were certainly ignorant of the Situation of *Habstadt*, *Burgursdorf*, *Ziegenruck Schandau*, as well as with the Disposition of the *Prussians* in these Posts.

General *Leschwitz*, with eleven Battalions and fifteen Squadrons, was posted between *Schandau*, and a small Village in that Neighbourhood; and opposite to him, in two other Villages, Marshal *Brown* was encamped with his Detachment; but *Leschwitz* was much stronger than *Brown*; and impracticable Rocks hindered the *Austrians* from advancing to *Burgersdorf*, and from thence to *Alstadt*, where the Saxons intended to pass the River at a small Plain, in the Center of which is a steep Mountain called *Lilienstein*. On each Side of this Mountain, five Battalions of Grenadiers were drawn up in the form of a Crescent, and guarded a strong Barricado of felled Trees. Behind them, at the Distance of five hundred Paces, two Brigades of Foot were placed in the Defile of *Burgersdorf* supported by five Squadrons of Dragoons. Behind this Defile is *Ziegunruck*, a perpendicular Rock, sixty Feet high. This Rock forms a Semi-circle round these difficult Posts, joining at each Extremity to the *Elbe*.

At this inconvenient Place it was, however, that the Saxons began, on the eleventh, to form their Bridge, which the *Prussians* suffered them to finish without any Molestation. The Descent from *Tirnsdorf* towards the *Elbe* is tolerably practicable; but when

when they had finished their Bridge, the great Difficulty of climbing up the Rock remained, from whence, they could go only by one Foot Path to *Alstædel*. They, however, began their March on the twelfth, in the Evening ; and, with infinite Difficulty, two Battalions of Grenadiers got on the other Side.

On the nineteenth this Road was entirely destroyed by the continual Rains ; so that there was no Possibility of getting their Cannon from their Intrenchments, and accordingly they left them behind. Soon after their Cavalry, Baggage, and Rear found themselves confusedly embarrassed, one being stopped by another. The Difficulty of the Passage thus hindering the March of the Troops, the Van could only file off one by one, whilst the main Body and the Rear were obliged to remain motionless in the same Place.

On the thirteenth, very early in the morning, Prince *Maurice* of *Anbault* received the first Advice of the *Saxons* Retreat ; and immediately the *Prussian* Troops marched in seven Columns : and it was not without great Difficulty that they climbed those Rocks, though they met with no Opposition. As soon as they had gained the Heights they formed ; and their *Hussars* falling on the four Squadrons which formed the Rear Guard of the *Saxons*, drove them to their Infantry near *Termisdorf* ; while the independant Companies of Hunters, lodging themselves in a Wood on the Flank of these Troops, extremely galled them with their Fire.

At the same Time Prince *Maurice* ordered the Foot Regiment of *Prussia* to advance on an Eminence to the Right of the *Saxons* ; and two Pieces of Cannon being brought to play on their Rear Guard, a general Flight ensued. The *Hussars* threw themselves on the Baggage of the Army and plundered it ; and the Hunters conveyed themselves into the Woods near
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the *Elbe*; from whence they galled the Rear Guard in its Retreat.

The *Saxons* now lost all Presence of Mind, and cut down their Bridge, which was carried by the Current to the Post of *Raden*. The *Prussian* Army encamped on the Eminence of *Struppen*, its Left extending to the *Elbe*, and its Right along a large hollow Way terminating near *Hennesdorf*.

Such was the Situation of the *Prussian*, *Saxon* and *Austrian* Troops, when the King of *Prussia* arrived on the fourteenth, with his Dragoons, at the Camp of *Struppen*. The *Saxons* depended on the *Austrians* making a vigorous Effort to relieve them; while, on the other Hand, the *Austrians* waited for a certain Signal to begin the Attack, which was never given. Thus were the *Saxons* entirely surrounded, and so close pent up by insurmountable Precipices, that it was impossible for them to make any Attempt for their Deliverance; and Marshal *Brown* perceiving the Danger of his own Situation, retreated on the 14th, towards *Bohemia*; but *Warneri*, with his *Hussars*, fell upon the Rear of the *Austrians*, consisting of three hundred *Hussars* and two hundred *Pandours*, entirely routed them, so that the *Hungarian* Infantry was put to the Sword.

The King of *Poland*, who was then at *Pirna*, seeing his Army in such a Situation, that it was impossible to force a Passage with the Sword, and at the same Time destitute both of Provisions, and all Hopes of Succours, permitted his Troops to surrender themselves Prisoners of War. And the King of *Poland* being himself desirous of retiring into his Kingdom was supplied by his *Prussian* Majesty with Horses both in *Saxony*, and the other Parts of the *Prussian* Dominions, through which he was to pass; and had the same Regard paid to his Person, as crowned

Heads.

Heads reciprocally receive towards each other in the most profound Peace.

On the sixteenth, the Capitulation being finished, the *Saxon* Army marched out, and was conducted to the *Prussian* Camp, where the greatest Part of the Soldiers entered, and the Officers were permitted to retire to their respective Places of Residence, on their Parole of Honour.

After the Surrender of the *Saxons*, their Incorporation with the *Prussian* Troops, as above related, and his *Polish* Majesty's Retreat to *Warsaw*, the Electorate of *Saxony* fell under the Government of the King of *Prussia*, the Revenues are levied in his Name, and the Appointments for the Support of his *Polish* Majesty's Household settled at his Discretion.

It was apprehended, that the *Prussian* Army, being by this desirable Event, fully at Liberty to act; and by so considerable an Acquisition of Strength, in a far better Condition to make head against the Enemy than before, would have penetrated into *Bohemia*, and given another Blow more fatal to the *Austrians*, under the Command of Marshal *Brown*, than that at *Lowsitz*. But the King of *Prussia* weighing the Disadvantages that might accrue to his Army by hazarding a Winter's Campaign in a Country where the Severity of the Weather is generally more destructive than the most desperate Battle, against the Advantages that might be gained by a second Victory, at a Season when it was impossible to improve it, prudently resolved to withdraw his Troops into Places of Cantonment, and there wait the Motions of the Enemy. As this Step alarmed the *Austrians*, a Detachment of eight thousand Horse were immediately sent to penetrate the King's Design; who, according to their own Account fell upon the Rear of the *Prussians*, and killed five hundred Men; but the *Prussians* say,

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say, that it was not till their Army was distributed into Winter-Quarters that this Body fell upon one of their detached Parties, who received them so warmly, that they were quickly repulsed.

After the King of *Prussia* had put his Troops into Winter-Quarters, and took every Precaution necessary to their Safety, he retired to *Berlin*, to consider more at Leisure the Measures necessary to be taken in this important Crisis; and soon after he published that famous Memorial which astonished all *Europe*, and set the dangerous Designs of the Courts of *Vien-na*, *Saxony*, and *Petersburg* in their true Light. It appeared from authentick Papers, that these Courts had agreed to provoke his *Prussian* Majesty to begin Hostilities, in order to fall upon him with their united Forces, strip him of his Dominions, and divide them amongst themselves.

After continuing some Time at *Berlin*, his *Prussian* Majesty returned to *Dresden*, and having heard great Encomiums of the Superintendant of the *Lutherans* in that City, as a Preacher, went one Day accompanied by the Prince of *Prussia*, the Princes *Henry* and *Ferdinand*, Marshal *Keith*, and several other general Officers, to hear him. The Superintendant tho' he knew nothing of his coming, adapted his Discourse to the Occasion, and without entering into those political Views which are foreign to the Pulpit, he considered the present Invasion and Situation of *Saxony* as the Consequence of the Almighty's Decrees, who when he stretches out his Hand over the Nations, brings about the most unforeseen Events. He slightly passed over the singular Circumstance of the two Monarchs at Peace with each other, one of whom entered the Territories of the other, who was thereby compelled to leave his Dominions. He besought the Almighty with the utmost Fervour to

put an End to the Misfortunes of *Saxony*, by inclining the Hearts of the two Princes to a perfect Re-union, that mutual Peace and Confidence might reign between their respective Subjects. Then turning to the King of *Prussia* he recommended *Saxony* to his royal Clemency and Goodness. He conjured him to take Compassion upon its deplorable State, by all those extraordinary Talents with which Heaven had so liberally endowed him, and which, he observed, were given to the few who possessed them, with no other Intent than to be employed in contributing to the Happiness of their Fellow-creatures. His Sermon was so pathetic, as to draw Tears from the whole Audience; nor was his *Prussian* Majesty unmoved, and when it was ended, sent for the Preacher and told him, "Sir, your Discourse equally pleased and edified me; and I wish your Prayers may be heard."

While these Things were transacting in *Saxony*, the *Russians* were preparing for an early Campaign; and notwithstanding the Severity of the Season, Troops marched from all Parts towards *Courland*, and the Frontiers of *Pomerania*. But notwithstanding these early Marches, they lingered above six Months on their Rout, never approaching the Frontiers of *Prussia*, till after the unfortunate Battle of *Collin*, as we shall have Occasion to mention in its proper Place.

Transactions of the Year 1757.

Early in the Spring, his Majesty divided his Forces into three distinct Armies, one of which was commanded by the Prince of *Bevern*, another by Marshal *Schwerin*, and the third, which was the principal, by the King in Person.

As soon as the Weather admitted the Troops to take the Field, he began to put in Execution the
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great Plan he had formed, of entering *Bohemia* with all those Armies suddenly, and at once, in order to surprise the *Austrians* before they were prepared, and either force them to engage at a manifest Disadvantage, or oblige them to retreat.

This Design however he contrived to conceal from the Enemy, even at the Time it was executing; by marching Part of his own Army towards the *Egra*. From this Appearance the *Austrians* judged, that though he designed to enter *Bohemia* with the Armies commanded by *Bevern* and *Schwerin*, yet that he did not propose to join them with his own. And seeing the *Prussian* Troops divided, they tho't proper to send a considerable Detachment, commanded by General *Aremberg*, to oppose the Corps marching to *Egra*. This Event the King of *Prussia* foresaw, and therefore was prepared for it, so that by a sudden Motion to the Left, he cut off all Communication between *Aremberg's* Detachment and the main Body. The *Austrians* did not even then perceive the King's View, but exulted in an Event, which was the certain Fore-runner of their Destruction. They mistook this Stroke of Policy for a Retreat, and gave out that the *Prussians* were fled.

In the mean Time, the March of the Prince of *Bevern* brought on an immediate Action, of which the following Particulars were soon after published.

Action of Reichenberg.

The Prince of *Bevern* having marched the 20th at the Head of a Body of the Army which was at *Lusatia*, from the Quarters of Cantonment near *Zittau*, possessed themselves immediately, without the Loss of a single Man, of the first Post of *Bohemia* at *Krotta* and *Gravenstein*, drove away the Enemy

nemy the same Day from *Kratzen*, and marched towards *Macehdorf*, near *Reichenberg*. The same Morning *Putkammer's* Hussars, commanded by their Colonel and by Major *Schanfield*, routed some hundreds of the Enemy's *Cuirassiers*, commanded by Prince *Lichtenstein*, who were posted before *Kohlig*, and took one Captain, two Subalterns, and above sixty Horse Prisoners; the rest were entirely dispersed, and hardly able to rally near *Kratzen*. Night coming on the Troops were obliged to remain in the open Air till Morning.

The 21st at Break of Day, the *Prussians* marched in two Columns by *Habendorf* towards the Enemy's Army, posted near *Reichenberg*, commanded by General Count *Konigseg*, and consisting of 28,000 Men. As soon as the Lines were formed, the *Prussians* advanced towards the Enemy's Cavalry, which was ranged in three Lines, and consisted of about 30 Squadrons. The two Wings were sustained by the Infantry, posted among felled Trees and Intrenchments. They immediately cannonaded the Enemy's Cavalry, who received it bravely, having on their Right a Village, and on their Left a Wood, where they had intrenched themselves with felled Trees and Pits. But the Duke of *Bevern* having caused fifteen Squadrons of Dragoons of the second Line to advance, and at the same Time ordered the Wood on the Right to be attacked by the Battalions of Grenadiers of *Kahlden* and *Mocllendorf*, and by the Prince of *Prussia's* Regiment, who cleared all the felled Trees and the Intrenchments there, the *Prussian* Dragoons, who had by this Means, their Flanks covered, entirely routed the Enemy's Cavalry. On this Occasion the Generals *Norman*, *Katt*, and the Prince of *Wintemberg* signalized themselves.

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Col. *Putkammer* and Major *Schanfield* with their Hussars, also distinguished themselves, by giving the Horse Grenadiers a very warm Reception; notwithstanding the Enemy's Artillery took them in Flank. At the same Time Lieutenant General *Lestewitz*, at the Head of the *Prussian* left Wing, attacked the Redoubts that covered *Reichenberg*. The Regiment of *Darmstadt*, though there were many Defiles and rising Grounds to pass, all occupied by the Enemy, forced the Redoubt, and put to Flight and pursued the Enemy, after some Discharge of their Artillery and small Arms, from one Eminence to another, for the Distance of a Mile, as far as *Rochlitz* and *Dorssel*. The Loss of the *Austrians* amounted to about 1000 killed and wounded; 20 Officers and 400 Soldiers were taken Prisoners. The *Prussians* also took three Standards, some Pieces of Cannon and Ammunition Waggon. The Loss of the *Prussians* was about 100 Men, and one Subaltern killed, and 16 Officers and 150 Men wounded. The Action begun at about half an Hour after six o'Clock, and continued till eleven.

This Success animated the *Prussians* with new Spirit: Marshal *Schwerin*, whose Army began to move on the 18th, marched with incredible Celerity, and by the 20th reached *Königshoff* on the *Elbe*. He had entered *Bohemia* in five different Places at once, and found the Inhabitants in the utmost Consternation, not having had the least Intelligence of his March, till he had passed the Frontiers. The *Austrians* immediately filled the dangerous Defiles of *Golden Ouse* with Pandours, to dispute his Progress; but these were no sooner discovered than defeated. At *Trautenau*, two *Austrian* Generals, with the Princes *Xavier* and *Charles* of Saxony, narrowly escaped falling into his Hands. At *Jung-Buntzlau*,

a considerable Magazine, consisting of 40,000 Bushels of Oats, and above 2000 Barrels of Meal, was seized. The *Austrians* every where fled before him, and he joined the Prince of *Bevern* almost without Loss, making himself Master of the Circle of *Buntzlau*, and the adjacent Country, which submitted to these Armies without Opposition.

In the mean Time the King's Army moved along the *Elbe*, and having passed the *Egra* advanced to *Budin*, from whence the *Austrians*, who had there a strong Camp, instantly retreated, and marched to *Walwern*, about half Way to *Prague*. The Prince of *Anhalt Dessau*, who commanded the Troops, that, as a Feint, had taken the Route of *Egra*, drew nearer to the King's Army; and on the 24th nothing but the main Stream of the *Elbe* separated the whole *Prussian* Force from that of the *Austrian*, so that a general Engagement became almost inevitable. The *Prussians* imagined that the *Austrians* would make their Stand on the Plains of *Gitscher*, and the Motions of Count *Brown* seeming to favour this Conjecture, the King passed the *Moldau* with 50,000 Men, the Rest of his Army remaining under the Command of the Prince of *Dessau*.

Battle of Prague.

The King having been informed that Marshal *Brown* had been reinforced by the Army of *Moravia*, by the Remains of the Corps which were beat by the Prince of *Bevern*, and by several Regiments of the Garrison of *Prague*, and seemed resolved to maintain the Post he had taken on the other Side of the *Moldau*; his Majesty passed that River with Part of his Army, and being joined by that under the Command of Marshal *Schwerin*, determined to attack the Enemy, though much superior in Number

ber of Troops, and posted besides in a Camp almost inaccessible, from every Advantage of Situation. All these Obstacles could not check the Ardour of the *Prussian* Officers and Soldiers, who vied with each other in passing Defiles, crossing Marshes, seizing the rising Grounds, and clearing Ditches, till at Length, after a very long and obstinate Engagement, and many signal Examples of Valour, the Enemy was forced to abandon the Field of Battle, leaving behind them the greatest Part of their Artillery, all their Tents, all their Baggage, and in a Word, their whole Camp.

The Loss of the *Austrians* in this memorable Battle was very great. Part of the left Wing of the *Austrians* fled in the greatest Confusion, and shut themselves up in *Prague*. On the other Hand the *Prussians* among several other Officers, lost the brave General *Schwerin*, who was killed in the first Attack.

The King of *Prussia* pursued these Advantages, and immediately invested the City of *Prague*. The rest of the *Austrian* Army retired into *Moravia*, where it was very greatly reinforced, and under the Command of Count *Daun*, marched back with an Intention of relieving *Prague*.

The Battle of Collin.

The Duke of *Bevern* having discovered that the real Design of Count *Daun* was to relieve *Prague* with the main Body of his Army, and that several false Attacks made by *Nadaſti* were intended only as Artifices to conceal his real Design; he imparted his Discovery to the King, who was then before *Prague*. Upon which his Majesty left the Camp, and at the Head of a few Battalions of Foot, and a few Squadrons of Horse, joined the Army under the Prince of *Bevern*.

Immediately

Immediately after this Junction, the *Prussians* advanced towards the Enemy, who were intrenched near *Collin*, in a very advantageous Situation. The Infantry was ranged in three Lines upon a very steep Eminence, defended by Batteries and Defiles, which rendered it almost inaccessible ; the *Austrians* were also greatly superior to the *Prussians* in Number. The latter however soon made themselves Masters of the two first Batteries, one of which consisted of eight, and the other of twelve Guns. After this they forced two Villages, which had been possessed by the *Austrian* Infantry, whom they drove out, and twice repulsed the left Wing of their Army. There still remained another Post to force, which was defended by all the *Austrian* Artillery, and which it was impossible to approach without exposing the Troops to a terrible Fire, which was little less than devoting them to Destruction. The Officers and Soldiers were however willing to make the Attempt, but his Majesty would not suffer it ; but commanded a Retreat, and the Army returned towards *Niemburg*, and without being pursued. The Hussars of *Ziethen* covered the Field of Battle, till all the wounded were carried off. The *Austrian* Infantry did not venture half Way down the Mountain which they occupied, but still kept their Post, without advancing a Step. The first Battalion of Guards, and Prince *Henry's* own Regiment performed Wonders ; the Guards sustained the Fire of four Battalions, and two Squadrons for three Hours successively, though they suffered very much.

The Loss of this Battle the King attributed wholly to himself : One false Motion often proves decisive : The exposing the Infantry naked and uncovered to the Enemies whole Artillery, was an Error that could not be retrieved.

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The *Austrians* were flying before his Majesty's victorious Troops; but the Chain and Grape Shot, which checked the Ardour of the Conquerors, made dreadful Havock among their Ranks; and having neither Artillery nor Horse to enable them to sustain the Shock, they were forced to retreat, not from the Enemy, who never dared to follow them, but from those Engines of Destruction, the murdering Fury of which they had no Means to resist, nor Numbers to supply.

The Loss of this Battle was succeeded by a still more affecting Misfortune; the Death of a Mother, whose maternal Tendernefs was such as rendered her unable to survive her Son's Defeat, gave an additional Stroke, which his Majesty was not prepared to receive. He however supported himself under this Affliction with a Dignity becoming a great Prince, who, notwithstanding this severe Trial of his Fortitude, appeared superior to his Misfortunes.

The *Russians*, who till now had moved unwillingly, and who for more than six Months had lingered on their March, all of a Sudden quickened their Motions, and shewed they were in Earnest to accomplish the Ruin of *Prussia*. The Declaration his Majesty caused to be published on this Occasion, is full of Moderation, and of Sentiments becoming a great Prince: So important a Piece will admit of no Abridgement, and is therefore inserted here at full Length.

It is sufficiently known, that the King of *Prussia* after the Example of his glorious Ancestors, has, ever since his Accession to the Crown, laid it down as a Maxim, to seek the Friendship of the imperial Court of *Russia*, and cultivate it by every Method. His *Prussian* Majesty hath had the Satisfaction to live, for several successive Years, in the strictest Harmony with
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the reigning Empress ; and this happy Union would be still subsisting, if evil-minded Potentates had not broke it by their secret Machinations, and carried Things to such a Height, that the Ministers on both Sides have been recalled, and the Correspondence broken off.

However melancholy these Circumstances might be for the King, his Majesty was nevertheless most attentive to prevent any Thing that might increase the Alienation of the *Russian* Court. He hath been particularly careful, during the Disturbances of the War that now unhappily rages, to avoid whatever might involve him in a Difference with that Court, notwithstanding the great Grievances he hath to alledge against it, and that it was publickly known, the Court of *Vienna* had at last drawn that of *Russia* into its destructive Views, and made it serve as an Instrument for favouring the Schemes of *Austria*.

His Majesty hath given the whole World incontestable Proofs, that he was under an indispensable Necessity of having Recourse to the Measures he hath taken against the Courts of *Vienna* and *Saxony*, who forced him by their Conduct to take up Arms for his Defence, yet, even since Things have been brought to this Extremity, the King hath offered to lay down his Arms if proper Securities should be granted to him.

His Majesty hath not neglected to expose the Artifices by which the imperial Court of *Russia* hath been drawn into Measures so opposite to the Empress's Sentiments, and which would excite the utmost Indignation of that great Princess, if the Truth could be placed before her without Disguise. The King did more ; he suggested to her imperial Majesty sufficient Means either to excuse her taking no Part in the present War, or to avoid upon the justest Grounds, the Execution of those Engagements which the Court of
Vienna

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Vienna claimed by a manifest Abuse of Obligations, which they employed to palliate their unlawful Views.

It wholly depended upon the Empress of *Russia* to extinguish the Flames of the War without unsheathing the Sword, by pursuing the Measures suggested by the King. This Conduct would have immortalised her Reign throughout all *Europe*. It would have gained her more lasting Glory, than can be acquired by the greatest Triumphs.

The King finds with Regret, that all his Precaution and Care to maintain Peace with the *Russian* Empire are fruitless, and that the Intrigues of his Enemies have prevailed. His Majesty sees all the Considerations of Friendship and good Neighbourhood set aside by the imperial Court of *Russia*, as well as the Observance of its Engagements, with his Majesty. He sees that Court marching its Troops through the Territories of a foreign Power, against the Inclination of that Power, and contrary to the Tenor of Treaties, in order to attack the King in his Dominions, and thus taking Part in a War in which his Enemies has involved the *Russian* Empire.

In such Circumstances, the King hath no other Part to take, but to employ the Power which God hath entrusted to him, in defending himself, protecting his Subjects, and repelling every unjust Attack.

His Majesty will never lose Sight of the Rules which are observed, even in the Midst of War, among civilized Nations. But, if contrary to all Hope and Expectation, these Rules should be violated by the Troops of *Russia*, if they commit in the King's Territories, Disorders and Excesses disallowed by the Laws of Arms, his Majesty must not be blamed if he make Reprisals in *Saxony*, and if, instead of that
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good Order and rigorous Discipline which have hitherto been observed by his Army, avoiding all Sorts of Violence, he finds himself forced, contrary to his Inclination, to suffer the Provinces and Subjects of *Saxony* to be treated in the same Manner as his own Territories shall be treated.

As to the Rest, the King will soon publish to the whole World the Futility of the Reasons alledged by the imperial Court of *Russia* to justify its Aggression: And as his Majesty is forced upon making his Defence, he has Room to hope with Confidence, that the Lord of Hosts will bless his righteous Arms, that he will disappoint the unjust Enterprizes of his Enemies, and grant him his powerful Assistance to enable him to make Head against them.

To this Declaration no Reply has appeared: Hostilities however commenced on the Part of *Russia*, by attacking *Memel*, a Town situated on the Frontiers of *Prussia*, and which after a short Resistance was obliged to capitulate; but committed such unheard of Cruelty and Brutalities as shock human Nature, and will fix an eternal Mark of Infamy on an Enemy, who call themselves Christians, and who promised nothing but Moderation and good Discipline in the Memorials they have published.

In the mean Time several small Skirmishes happened between the *Prussian* and *Austrian* Armies, but without any Thing of Consequence attending them except the taking of *Zittau*, which was attended with many uncommon Circumstances of Cruelty on one Side, and Distress on the other; *Zittau* was a *Saxon* trading Town, which the *Prussians* had taken Possession of, and laid up in it some military Stores and Provisions for the Use of the Army. The *Austrians* however when they came before it paid no Regard to the Inhabitants, as being Friends and Allies, but

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began

began to throw Bombs and red hot Balls into it, with so little Intermiffion, that it was soon fet on Fire in many Places. In the Confufion which the Conflagration produced, the *Auftrians* entered the Town, and the Inhabitants, imagined they had then nothing more to fear, and that their Friends the *Auftrians* would affist them to extinguish the Flames, and fave the Place ; but this Imagination however reafonable, was difappointed ; the *Pandours* and *Sclavonians*, who rufhed in with the regular Troops, made no Difinction between the *Pruffians* and Inhabitants of *Zittau* ; inftead of affifting to quench the Flames, they began to plunder the Warehoufes, which the Fire had not reached, fo that all the valuable Goods they contained, efpecially Linens, were either carried off or reduced to Afhes : The Mothers, Wives, and Children of the Merchants were killed as they were fitting in their Chambers and Nurseries, by the Bombs which fell through the Roofs of the Houfes. Six hundred and twenty three Dwellings befides Warehoufes were burnt to the Ground ; the Stadthoufe alfo, with all the publick Buildings were deftroyed, except the Cathedral, which was fo much damaged that it is every Moment expected to fall. The Number of Perfons of both Sexes that were killed in this Affault, amounted to above four hundred, befides thofe who were buried under the Ruins, or bruifed, burnt, or otherwife mounted by the burfting of the Bombs and the falling of Houfes.

By the Treaty of *Versailles* the *French* engaged to furnifh the Emprefs Queen with a large Body of Troops, which were to enter *Saxony* on this Side while the *Auftrians* attacked the *Pruffian* Army on the other. But this Army, which was furnifhed by the *French*, were ftopped by the Duke of *Cumberland* at the Head of an Army of Obfervation ; and it was
 pofitively

asserted, that his Royal Highness would be able to maintain his Ground between the *Aller* and the *Elbe*, till the Rigour of the Season should have put an End to the Campaign ; but that Hope was at once disappointed, and the Assertion proved to be false by a hasty Convention between the Duke and Marshal *Richlieu*, by which the Campaign is now closed on this Side, and Marshal *Richlieu*, at Liberty either to advance with his whole Force, into *Saxony* in order to dislodge the *Prussians* from that Electorate, and carry the Flames of War into *Silesia*, and the other Dominions of *Prussia*. Before the Conclusion of this Convention, which has opened the Enemy a free Passage into *Germany*, the Ravages of the *Russian Cossacks* and other Barbarians in *Polish Prussia*, had rendered an Attack upon their main Army absolutely necessary. General *Lehwald*, who commanded a Body of 30,000 Men, finding it impossible to spare Detachments from so small a Number, to cover the Inhabitants from the Outrages committed upon them by these Savages, resolved to attack the Entrenchments of the Enemy, though at a Disadvantage so great as to leave but a bare Possibility of Success. The Account of the Engagement which happened on the 30th of *August*, as published in the *Berlin* and *London* Gazettes is as follows.

That the *Russian* Army amounting to 80,000 regular Troops, had chosen a most advantageous Camp near *Norkiten*. It was composed of four Lines, each of which was defended by an Intrenchment with a numerous Artillery, and Batteries placed upon all the Eminences. Notwithstanding so great a Superiority, Marshal *Lehwald* determined to attack the Enemy with his Army which hardly consisted of 30,000 Men. The Attack began at five in the Morning, and was carried on with so much Vigour, that the *Prussians* entirely

entirely broke the whole first Line of the Enemy, and forced all their Batteries.

The Prince of *Holstein Gottorp*, Brother to the King of *Sweden*, at the Head of a Regiment of Dragoons, routed the Enemy's Cavalry, and afterwards fell upon a Regiment of Grenadiers, which was cut to Pieces; but when the *Prussians* came to the second Intrenchment, Marshal *Lehwald*, seeing that he could not attempt to carry it without exposing his whole Army, took the Resolution to retire, which he did in the best Manner, and without the Enemy's daring to stir out of their Intrenchments to pursue them. The *Prussians* returned to their former Camp at *Velau*, where they remained; as did the Enemy in their Camp. The Loss of the *Prussians* did not exceed 2000 killed and wounded, which Loss however was immediately replaced by the disciplined Militia. The Loss of the Enemy must be near 14,000. General *Lapuchin* was wounded and taken Prisoner, with a Colonel of the *Russian* Artillery, but the former sent back on his Parole. The *Prussian* Army had, at first made themselves Masters of above 80 Pieces of Cannon, but were afterwards obliged to abandon them with 11 of their own, for want of Carriages. The *Prussians* have lost no General or Officer of Distinction. Lieutenant General *Dohna* is the only one wounded. It is said there are three *Russian* Generals killed.

The Account published by Field Marshal *Apraxin*, is conceived in general Terms. It represents the Attack as contrary to all the Rules of War, and as the Effects either of positive Orders or of Despair. It acknowledges that the *Prussian* Forces behaved as well as Men could do; but it asserts, that they had 10,000 killed and wounded, whereas the *Russians* had but 7000.

While these unfavourable Events have happened, the Armies of his *Prussian* Majesty have been in continual Exercise. When the *Austrians* were approaching *Lusatia*, the King's Armies were drawn together to cover that Marquisate; but when his Majesty was assured of the Arrival of the *French* on the Confines of *Saxony*, aided by the Army of the Empire, and commanded by a Marshal of *France*, he hesitated not a Moment to quit *Lusatia*, in order, by giving Battle to this new Enemy, to keep the Seat of War at a Distance from his own Dominions. On the 15th of *August*, however, when he first formed this Resolution, and before he determined to put it in Execution, he went in Sight of the *Austrian* Camp, and within Cannon-shot. So soon as they perceived his Troops, they struck their Tents and drew up in Order of Battle. The King formed his Army over against them, and immediately went to reconnoitre the Ground between the Armies; but as it was then late, he deferred the more exact Examination of the Ground till next Day. The two Armies continued all Night under Arms. On the 6th, at Day-break the King returned to reconnoitre the Situation of the Enemy with the utmost Exactness. He found them encamped with their Right at the River *Neisse*: The rest of their Army extended along a Height, to a Mountain covered with Wood, which protected their Left; before their Front, at the Foot of the Hill, on which they were drawn up, was a small Brook passable only in three different Places, and that for 4 or 5 Men a-breast. Towards the Left of the *Austrian* Army, there was an Opening, where three or four Battalions might have marched in Front; but behind it they had placed three Lines of Infantry; and, on a Hill which flanked this Opening within Musket-shot,

shot, were placed 4000 Foot, with 40 or 50 Pieces of Cannon ; so that really this was the strongest Part of their Camp. The King, to leave nothing undone that might force the *Austrians* to a Battle, sent General *Winterfeldt*, with Part of the Army, to the other Side of the *Neisse* by the Bridge of *Hirschfeld*, to try to take them in Flank. But that being likewise found impossible, the *Prussian* Army, after lying four Days before the Enemy, returned on the 20th to their Camp at *Bernstædel* : They were followed by some Hussars and Pandours, who however had not the Satisfaction to take one single Pack-horse in the Retreat. The *Austrians* say, they are 130,000 Strong ; yet they durst not risque a Battle, though the King gave them the fairest Occasions. The Day he returned to *Bernstædel*, after he had retired about 2000 Yards he drew up the Army in a Line of Battle, and remained so upwards of an Hour : But not a Man stirred from the *Austrian* Camp.

On the 28th of *August*, after having refreshed his Army, he decamped sudden'y from *Bernstædel*, leaving the Prince of *Bevern*, Prince *Ferdinand*, and General *Winterfeldt*, with 30,000 Men near *Gorlitz*, to observe the Motions of the Enemy. He took the Road of *Dresden*, where on the 29th he rested with his advanced Guard, and next Morning, at four, continued his March, his main Body constantly occupying in the Evening the Camp the advanced Guard had quitted the Morning before. On the 12th of *September* his whole Army halted for the pontoons and heavy Baggage, and on the 13th he passed the *Sale*, on which Imperialists and *French* quitted their Camp at *Erfurth*, and retired towards *Gotha*, where they expect considerable Reinforcements.

In the mean Time the *Austrians*, who before the King began his March, kept close within their Intrenchments, began again to shew themselves every where. On the 6th of *September* they took Possession of *Bernstädel* which the *Prussian* Garrison had quitted, except one Battalion only, who were made Prisoners of War. On the 7th a sharp Engagement happened between the main Body of the *Austrian* Army, and General *Winterfield*, the Particulars whereof are thus related by the *Prussians*.

On the 7th a Body of 15,000 *Austrians* attacked two Battalions of *Winterfield's* Troops, who were posted on an Eminence, on the other Side of the *Neifs*, near *Hannersdorf*, in the Neighbourhood of *Gœerlitz*: They were repulsed several Times; but at last they took Possession of the Eminence, which they have since abandoned. The Enemy lost 3000 Men, and we had 800 killed or wounded; but what greatly heightens our Loss is the Death of the brave General *Winterfield*, who received a Shot from a Cannon as he was leading up Succours to the Battalions which were engaged, and died the Night following.

The Death of this great General is an irreparable Loss to the *Prussians*, as he was equally remarkable for his Courage and Conduct. His *Prussian* Majesty received at the same Time, the News of the Death of General *Winterfield*, and that the *Swedes* had begun Hostilities in *Pomerania*; to which this magnanimous Prince answered, with Tears standing in his Eyes, "I may find Resources against the Multitude of my Enemies; but how few Men are equal to *Winterfield*!"

On the 13th of *September* his Majesty entered *Erfurth*, and from thence proceeded to *Gotha*, the *Imperialists* and *French* retiring before him, after having

ing dismounted the Cannon, and broken the Carriages. Here he continued all Night, and the next Day returned to his Camp at *Kirk Schlaben*, near *Erfurth*, having left his Dragoons and Hussars behind him, under the Command of General *Seydlitz*, between whom, and a considerable Part of the combined Army, a Rencounter happened on the 19th of which the following Particulars must not be omitted.

The combined Army was assembled near *Erfenach*, and intrenched in the Defiles of the Mountains to wait the Attack of the *Prussians* who still continued near *Erfurth*; but in the mean Time the Commanders came to a Resolution of making an Attempt to carry off *Seydlitz's* Party at *Gotha*, which consisted of about 1200 Men; for this Purpose they marched all Night with almost all their Cavalry, and 23 Companies of Grenadiers, amounting in the whole to between 7 and 8000 Men, and arrived about 8 in the Morning; but *Seydlitz*, though surprized, made a good Retreat, not losing 20 Men. The Princes *Hilburghausen* and *Soubise*, and all the *French* Generals, came up to Court at 11 o'Clock; the Infantry possessed themselves of the Town, and it was expected they would have remained here; But *Seydlitz* perceiving a Fog to arise, determined to improve it; he therefore retired behind the Hills about a League off, towards *Erfurth*, where he caused 100 Dragoons to dismount, to represent Infantry, and divided the rest of the Troops into 22 small Bodies, which extended themselves very far, and, by the Favour of the Fog, appeared like so many Squadrons. At one in the Afternoon he attacked the *French* with his Hussars only; and News was immediately carried to the *French* Generals, that the whole *Prussian* Army was advancing; that they lay behind the Hills, and that they were extending towards the Left, in order

order to furround them; whereupon they made all possible Haste to retreat, and after having marched all Night, were obliged to return the Way they came, without having any Refreshment; so that in two Hours Time there was not a *Frenchman* left. *M. de Seydelitz* pursued them, made 40 Prisoners, killed about the same Number, took a great deal of Baggage, and was very near taking several general Officers, who had staid too long in the Town. This Action, though of no great Consequence in itself, does great Honour to the General. The King, however, did not think proper to let him remain at *Gotha* any longer.

The 21st he returned to *Erfurth*, and the same Evening the Vanguard of the *French* Army again repossessed themselves of *Gotha*.

During these Transactions, the *Russians* who had advanced as far as *Wolau*, and committed the most horrid Outrages on the poor Peasants, and other Inhabitants of the Country they invaded, made a sudden and precipitate Retreat back to *Russia*; they took the Road of *Tilset*, marching with such Expedition and Secrecy, that no Party dispatched after them was able to do any Thing more than pick up the sick and wounded, who were left behind in the Road. The Fleet also returned to *Cronstadt*, and their Gallies retired under the Cannon of the Fortres of *Memel*, after burning 70 Vessels in which they used to carry their Provisions, and thrown a thousand Sacks of Flour into the Sea.

But to supply the Place of the *Russians*, the *Suedes* under the Command of Count *Hamilton* have entered *Prussian Pomerania* in a hostile Manner, and published the following Declaration, to account for so unexpected and extraordinary a Measure,

Q

“ His

“ His Majesty the King of *Sweden*, in Quality of
 “ Guarantee of *Westphalia*, could not excuse himself
 “ from causing his Troops to enter the *Prussian* Di-
 “ vision of the Dutchy of the *Anterior Pomerania*,
 “ being by such Guaranty obliged to be vigilant in
 “ the Support of the Constitutions of the Empire at
 “ this Time insulted ; to obtain Satisfaction as the
 “ States of the Empire, which have suffered Injury,
 “ have a just Right to expect, and to restore them to
 “ the Peace which has been infringed by the Treaty of
 “ *Westphalia*.”

In Answer to this the King of *Prussia*, by an opposite Declaration has proved in a convincing Manner, that the Crown of *Sweden* could not, upon any legal Foundation, lay any Thing to his Charge, to make it appear that he had really disturbed the Peace of *Westphalia* ; and therefore his Majesty enjoins his Vassals, Magistrates, and Subjects of the *Anterior Pomerania*, as likewise the Receivers, publick Officers, and other Persons of Employment, to the Observance of their respective Duties towards their Sovereign, without any Regard to the Prohibitions enjoined them by *Sweden*, and this they are obliged to do under a Penalty to the Refractory of the most rigorous Indignation of their Sovereign, &c.

Amidst all these Difficulties which his *Prussian* Majesty is obliged to encounter on every Side, by the Multitude of his Enemies, he still supports that Magnanimity of Mind, which no Misfortunes seem able to destroy. Among many other Instances that might be given we have selected the following Letter written by that Monarch some Time after the unfortunate Battle of *Colin*.

“ The

Letter from the King of Prussia to Lord Marshal.

“ The *Imperial* Grenadiers are an admirable Corps; one hundred Companies defended a rising Ground that my best Infantry could not carry. *Ferdinand*, who commanded them, returned seven Times to the Charge but to no Purpose. At first he mastered a Battery, but could not hold it. The Enemy had the Advantage of a numerous and well served Artillery. It did Honour to *Lichtenstein*, who had the Direction; the *Prussian* Artillery alone can dispute it with him. My Infantry were too few. All my Cavalry were present, and idle Spectators, except a bold Push by my household Troops and some Dragoons. *Ferdinand* attacked without Powder: The Enemy, in Return, were not sparing of theirs. They had the advantage of a rising Ground, of Intrenchments, and of prodigious Artillery. Several of my Regiments were repulsed by their Musquetry. *Henry* performed Wonders. I tremble for my worthy Brothers: They are too brave: Fortune turned her Back on me this Day. I ought to have expected it: She’s a Female, and I am no Gallant. In Fact I ought to have had more Infantry.----Success, my dear Lord, often occasions a destructive Confidence. Twenty four Battalions were not sufficient to dislodge sixty thousand Men from an advantageous Post. Another Time we will do better.---What say you of this League, that has only the Marquis of *Brandenburg* for its Object? The great Elector would be surprized to see his Grandson at War with the *Russians*, the *Austrians*, almost all *Germany*, and a hundred thousand *French* Auxiliaries.---I know not if it will be a Disgrace in me to submit, but I am sure there will be no Glory in vanquishing me.”

Such

Such are the noble, the generous Sentiments of this great Prince ; he does not meanly endeavour to conceal his Defeat, or depreciate either the Courage or Conduct of the Enemy. Nor would his great and noble Soul suffer him to impute the Loss of the Battle to any other, when he was conscious it was owing to a Mistake of his own.

In the Course of these Memoirs, we have already given several Instances of the piercing Genius, and extensive Learning of this great Prince ; but we presume the Reader will not be displeased to find we have also added the two following. The first of these namely, an Essay on the Government of *Brandenburg*, was wrote sometime since ; but the latter, an Ode on Death, very lately.

Of the ancient and modern Government of the Country of Brandenburg.

Before the Country of *Brandenburg* was converted to Christianity, it was governed by *Druids*, as was formerly all *Germany*. Under the *Vandals*, the *Teutons*, and the *Suevi*, their Princes were Generals appointed by the Nation ; and were called *Firßen*, which signifies Commanders or Leaders. The Emperors, who subdued those Barbarians, established Governors over the Frontiers, who were named *Margraves*, to curb this warlike Nation, extremely jealous of her Liberty. There are so few Records remaining of those distant Ages, that to avoid mixing Fables with History, we shall confine ourselves to the Government of the Electorate, under the Princes of the House of *Hohenzollern*.

In the Year 1412, when the Burgraves of *Nuremberg* were first established in the *Marck*, the Nobility, who were become resty and intractable under the late Regencies, refused to yield them Homage : As they

they were supported in their Independence by the Dukes of *Pomerania*, they grew formidable to their Sovereign; the great Families were powerful, they armed their Subjects, and waged War with each other, robbing Travellers even on the Highways. Their Places of Retreat were strong Castles, surrounded with deep Ditches. Thus, these petty Tyrants having divided the Authority amongst them, ravaged the open Country with Impunity; and as there was no Government that could enforce the Execution of its Laws, an universal Disorder prevailed, and the Inhabitants were reduced to the utmost Misery. The great Families that arose in this State of Anarchy, were those of *Kitzow*, *Putlitz*, *Bredow*, *Hotizendorff*, *Uchtenhagen*, *Torgow*, *Arnim*, *Rockow*, and the Lords of *Hokenstein*; it is with these that the Elector *Frederick I.* had to deal.

Notwithstanding they were subdued by this Prince, yet they continued still Masters of the Government: They granted the Supplies, regulated the Imposts, fixed the Number of Troops which were never raised but in Case of Necessity, and were paid by them; they were consulted also upon the Measures proper to be taken for the Defence of the Country; and it was by their Advice that the Laws were administered.

History furnishes us with more than one Instance of the Power of the States. The Elector *Albert*, in the Year 1472, the *Achilles* owed a hundred thousand Florins; and to get clear of the Debt he desired the States to charge themselves with the Payment of the Money. They consented, and laid an Excise on Beer, which they granted only for seven Years: They raised it afterwards, and from thence comes what is called the *Landschaft* or the publick Bank.

Under the Elector *Joachim I.* 1530, the States laid a Duty on Mills, Farms, and Sheep-folds, in order

order to keep two hundred Horse in Pay, whom this Prince sent to assist the Emperor against the Infidels.

In the Elector *Joachim II's* Time, the Credit of the States was so great, that they redeemed some Bailiwicks, upon which that Prince had borrowed Money ; on Condition neither he nor his Successors should ever after mortgage or sell them. He consulted them upon all Occasions, and promised not to undertake any Thing without their Consent. They even entered into a Correspondence with *Charles V.* and gave him to understand, that they did not approve the Elector should go to the Diet ; and accordingly he did not undertake the Journey.

John Sigismund and *George William* in 1628, consulted the States in regard to the Succession of *Juliers* and *Berg*. They nominated four Deputies, who followed the Court, as well to assist as counsel, as to be employed in Negotiations, and for such other Purposes as Circumstances might point out, in the Service of those Princes.

George William in 1631, consulted the States for the last Time to know whether they approved that he should enter into an Alliance with the *Swedes*, by putting them in Possession of his strong Holds ; or whether he should side with the Emperor. From that Time *Schwartzenberg* got such a powerful Ascendant over this weak Prince, that he absorbed the whole Authority of the Sovereign and of the States, and levied Taxes by his own Authority. Thus the States had no more left them, of that Power which they had never abused, than the Merit of a blind Submission to the Orders of the Court.

The Electors had no other Council than the States till the Reign of *Joachim Frederic*. This Prince established a Council composed of a Minister for the Administration

Administration of Justice, another for the Management of the Revenue, another for the Affairs of the Empire, and another who was Marshal of the Court; over all which presided a Stadtholder. From this Council all Decisions were issued out in the last Resort, all Orders civil and military, all Regulations concerning the Police; and it was they that drew up Instructions for the Ministers employed in foreign Courts.

When the Elector happened to be obliged, either by a Journey or by War, to leave his Dominions, this Council exercised the Functions of the Sovereignty: They gave Audience to foreign Ministers; and had the same Power in short, as that which a Regency is possessed of, during the Minority of a Prince.

The Power of the prime Minister and of the Council was almost boundless; Count *Schwartzenberg*, in particular, had increased his Authority under *George William* to such a Degree, that it seemed, equal to that of the Mayors of the Place under the *French Kings* of the first Race. But the enormous Abuse he made of it, gave the Elector *Frederic William* a Dislike to all prime Ministers. We find by the Regulations made by this Prince in 1651, that each of the great Officers had his different Department, and that in every Province there were two Counsellors to regulate the Affairs belonging to that District.

Frederic William, in the Beginning of his Reign, resided at *Koningsberg* in *Prussia*: He took Care to provide the Council whom he left at *Berlin*, with ample Instructions relating to the Circumstances of that Time. The Troops received their Orders from the oldest Generals who happened to be in the Province; and the Governors of fortified Towns received Orders directly from himself.

Upon

Upon the Death of the Chancellor *Gortz*, this Dignity was suppressed, and Baron *Schwerin* was made first President of the Council. The Departments were divided, so that whatever related to the Administration of the Laws, was carried to the Council of Justice, who had a President at their Head: The Jurisdiction of the Officers of the Court, depended on the Governor of the Castle: The Revenue was administered by the Chamber of the Domains, which was subdivided into several Offices; of which Baron *Meinders*, and after him the *Sieur de Jena*, had the general Direction.

The ecclesiastical Affairs were directed by a Consistory, composed partly of Priests, and partly of Laymen; besides the abovementioned Colleges, the Chancery of the Fiefs determined all feudal Affairs.

Things continued almost on this Footing, during the Reign of *Frederic I.* 1688, with this Difference, that he let himself be governed entirely by his Ministers. *Dunclemen*, who had been his Preceptor, became Master of the State; upon the Disgrace of that Minister, Count *Wartenberg* had the very same Influence over his Sovereign; and *Kamke* would in the like Manner, have succeeded the great Chamberlain, if the King's Death had not put an End to his growing Power.

Frederick William II. in 1713, changed the whole Form of the State and Government; he limited the Power of the Ministers; and they, who had been Masters of his Father, became his Servants.

The Direction of foreign Affairs was committed to the *Sieurs d' Itzen* and *Kniphausen*; these Ministers conferred with the Envoys, and held a Correspondence with the *Prussian* Ministers in the different Courts of Europe; but they were particularly entrusted

ted with the Affairs relating to the Empire, to the Boundaries of the State, and the Rights and Privileges of the electoral Family. The *Sieur Cocceius*, Minister of State, had the general Direction of the Administration of Justice, and acted as Chancellor: Under him the *Sieur de Armin* had the Department of Appeals, and of the civil Justice of *Prussia* and *Ravensberg*; and the *Sieur de Katsch* was placed at the Head of the criminal Jurisdiction.

The *Sieur de Prentz*, great Marshal of the Court, was made President of the superior Consistory, and intrusted with the Inspection of the Universities, charitable Foundations, Canonries, and the Affairs of the *Jews*.

The Revenue was the Part of the Government which had been most neglected; for which Reason the King made several Regulations, and established the great Directory in 1724. This College is divided into four Departments, and at the Head of each is a Minister of State. *Prussia*, *Pomerania* and the New *Marck*, with the Post-Office, constituted the first Department, which was given to the *Sieur de Grunkow*: The Electorate of *Brandenburg*, the Dutchy of *Magdeburg*, the Country of *Rupin*, and the Place of Secretary at War formed the second Department, which was given to the *Sieur de Krauk*: The Territories on the *Rhine* and the *Weser*, with the Salt-pits, made the third Division, which was given to the *Sieur de Grone*; and the fourth had the Direction of the Principality of *Halberstadt*, the County of *Mansfeldt*, the Manufactures, the Stamp-Office, and the Mint; this fell to the *Sieur de Vireck*.

The King united the Secretaryship at War with the Commission of the Revenues: Formerly these Colleges employed forty Advocates, for the Prosecution of the several Suits that arose in those Courts,

at the same Time that they neglected the Business for which they were designed; but after their Reunion, they employed their Time entirely in the Service of the State.

Under these principal Departments, the King established in each Province a Court of Justice, and another of the Exchequer, subordinate to the Ministers. The Ministers for foreign Affairs, as well as those appointed for the Administration of Justice and of the Revenue, made their Reports every Day to the King, who pronounced final Judgment on the several Matters laid before him. During his whole Reign there was not the least Decree which was not signed with his own Hand, nor the least Instruction, of which he himself was not the Author.

He declared all the Fiefs allodial, on Condition of a certain yearly Rent, which the Proprietors paid to the State. He laid out four Millions five hundred thousand Crowns in the Re-establishment of *Lithuania*; six Millions in rebuilding several Towns in his own Dominions, in improving the City of *Berlin*, and founding the Town of *Potzdam*, besides purchasing Hands to the Value of five Millions, which he incorporated with his own Domains.

In a Word, it was *Frederick William*, that gave an advantageous Form to the State, and settled the Government upon the Principles of Prudence and Wisdom.

AN

ODE on DEATH.

WHAT do I hear? sad Truth! a few short
Years,
Or Days, or Moments (can it be?)
May bring the Point mark'd in the rolling Spheres,
That ends all Time to me.
Thou Sun, whose orient Charms I oft explore,
And wilt thou set, to rise no more?
Earth, now I feel thy Weight---the Skies,
The Universe itself, fly from my Sight;
And now, a Victim down the Stream of Night,
I'm driven to the Sacrifice.

Whilst living, I'm encompass'd round with Death,
Walk by his Side, in his cold Arms I lie;
And with my Food, impoison'd by his Breath,
I daily gorge Mortality.
Ev'n jarring Elements conspire
To quench the feeble vital Fire:
Art brings her Aid (too oft the Art to kill)
And to expell one evil (fatal Skill!)
Admits a greater, more tyrannic Ill. }

This Idol proud, to whom my Soul divine,
Submissive bows, e'er long shall be
Reduc'd to Dust, and moulder in a Shrine;
O mournful Destiny!
The livid Food of Worms? dire painful Thought!
To bear the Idea yet my Soul's untaught.

Ah!

Ah ! whence thy Pride, O pamper'd Clay ?
 Reflecting what to-morrow's Sun may bring.
 How canst thou foolish Mortal, transient Thing.
 Thus sooth the Phantom of to Day ?
 What, of this vital animating Breath,
 That acts, that thinks, shall be the future Lot ?
 Say, shall th' illustrious Victim fall by Death ?
 This Soul, that, in a single Thought,
 Pursues all Nature through the Sky,
 And knows the living God on High ;
 The living God ?---It cannot will not be ;
 My dying Soul revives at Thought of thee :
 Who knows thee once, knows to Eternity. }
 The Cloud dispell'd see brighter Prospects rise !
 Lo ! dawning Hope and Bliss divine !
 What Streams of Pleasure meet my ravish'd Eyes !
 And shall that Joy be mine ?
 The just alone will taste the promis'd Bliss,
 But impious Souls shall Head-long seek th' Abyss.
 There languish out Eternity to come,
 Where Heaven's relentless Vengeance reigns :
 Or this, or that's my final Doom.
 A Moment seals my Fate ! perchance the next,
 A thousand Objects hold me fast---perplex'd,
 I rend my Soul, intirely caught,
 And, like a Tree torn from its Place of Birth,
 Am tortur'd from this Mother-Earth.---
 Grandeur's vain Phantoms, view'd with jealous
 Eye, }
 Ye chain my Soul that glad would upward fly,
 And cause a thousand Deaths before I die.

What do I see ? Astonishment ! Surprise !
 Sure Death no more can slay, devour :
 No Aim, nor Effort, Wish, nor Enterprize
 That seem to own his Pow'r.

'Tis

'Tis Error whispers,---Man shall never die---
 Mankind, attentive, gorge the fatal Lie;
 They hoard, acquire, accumulate,
 Pursue Renown and the Field of Death;
 The Age-worn Dotard, plodding, yields his Breath,
 At last to unexpected Fate.
 Go, plow the Sea, disdain the raging Skies,
 Nor Dread nor Rocks, nor red-hot Lightning
 hurl'd;

Licentious Mortals, go, Shipwreck despise,
 And share the Plunder of another World.
 Dare all Things, till your Idol ye have caught:
 By your Example I'll be taught.
 Ah! are you dead? Who would have thought,
 To see you pant for Gold, project, implore,
 That Time would come when ye shall be no more?

Thou haughty Conqu'ror, who, with Fire and
 Sword,
 Hast, wasting, mark'd thy bloody Way;
 The World, no doubt, shall still obey thy Word;
 A hundred Scepters thou shalt sway.
 Ambitious Dust! escap'd from Nature's Void,
 What yields Ambition, when thy Hopes are cloy'd?
 To conquer, triumph, and to die,
 Ah! were so many Nations overcome,
 To deck, with mutilated Crowns, the Tomb
 Where putrid Bones should lie?

Behold this Stage of Life! the great, the wise,
 By sportive Fortune, round the Scene are led;
 Then mark their Exit! my astonish'd Eyes
 Scarce know the living from the dead.
 No more the Sweets of *Flora* bring,
 Which *Flora* wafts on *Zephyr's* Wing;
 Crown me with Myrtles in a Cypress Shade.

Ah!

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Ah! in the very Instant of my Woe,
Ev'n whilst on Truth I gaze,
Relapsing Senses, will ye go,
Back to the winding Maze?
What new Attraction? Was it all a Dream?
Is, then, the great, immortal Soul supreme?
That Soul, which, if an Insect's Web but draw
To Pleasure's Altar, will obey its Law.
See Reason sailing down the frantic Stream!
This peopled World is but the Stage
Of Folly: Fools of every Age
Misplay their Part.
Like Fish escap'd the Net, away we dart,
Wind with the Stream, by Danger till untaught,
And, in the very Net we shunn'd, are caught.

O *Voltaire*! this perpetual Change,
What Reason comprehends?
Inconstant Scene, Transition strange!
The Hour begun in Woe, in Rapture ends,
Within our Breasts, 'tis this successive Reign
Of Pleasure, with alternate Pain,
That, to the Coffin from our Birth,
Still constitutes our Happiness on Earth.

F I N I S.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE these Sheets were printed, Advice has been received, that his *Prussian* Majesty has totally defeated the *French* and Imperial Armies, and the following Particulars published by Authority in the *London Gazette*.

Extract of a Letter from the Prussian Army upon the Unstrut in Thuringen, of the 7th of November 1757.

“ On the 24th of *October*, the King's Army happened to be divided in several Corps, some of them at the Distance of twenty Leagues asunder. Upon Advice that the Princes of *Saxe-Hildburghausen* and *Soubise* were marching up directly to Marshal *Keith*, who was then in *Leipzig* with seven Battalions, the King resolved that the Army should join again ; which was executed the 27th of *October*. The whole Army remained at *Leipzig* the 28th and 29th ; and every Body thought, that the Battle would be fought in the Plains of *Lutzen*. On the 30th, the King drew nigh that Place ; and, on the 31st, in going through *Weissenfels* and *Merseberg*, 500 Men [of the combined Army] were made Prisoners of War.

“ The Enemy had repassed the *Sala*, and burnt down the Bridges at *Weissenfels*, *Merseburg* and *Halle* ; but they were soon repaired, and the whole Army having passed the River through these three Towns, joined again the 3^d of *November* in the Evening over against the Enemy.

“ The King was going to engage them on the 4th, but deferred it, and the whole Day was spent in

in a Cannonade, to which our Cavalry, being most advanced, were exposed, and by which the *French* killed them nine Men.

“ On the 5th Intelligence was brought, at Nine o’Clock in the Morning, that the Enemy was every where in Motion. We heard their Drums beating the March the whole Morning; and we could very plainly perceive from our Camp, that their whole Infantry, which had drawn nearer upon the rising Ground over against us, was filing towards their Right. No certain Judgment, however could yet be formed of the Enemy’s real Design; and as they were in want of Bread, it was thought probable, that they intended to repass the *Unstrut*: But it was soon perceived, that their several Motions were contradictory to each other. At the same Time that some of their Infantry was filing off towards their Right, a large Body of Cavalry marched towards their Left; directing its March all along to the rising Grounds, with which our whole Camp, which lay in the Bottom between the Villages of *Redrow* and *Rosbach*, was surrounded, within the Reach of large Cannon. Soon after, that Cavalry was seen to halt, and afterwards to fall back to the Right. Some of this Corps remained, however, whilst the rest was marching back. About Two in the Afternoon our Doubts were cleared up; and it plainly appeared, that the Enemy intended to attack us; and that their Dispositions were made with a View to surround us, and to open the Action by attacking us in the Rear. In case we had been defeated, the Corps, posted over against *Bederow*, was to have fallen upon our routed Troops, and to have prevented their retiring to *Mersburg*, the only Retreat which would then have been left us.

“ The

“ The King took the Resolution to march up to the Enemy and to attack them.

“ His Majesty had determined to make the Attack with one Wing only ; and the Disposition of the Enemy made it necessary that it should be the left Wing. The very Instant the Battle was going to begin, his Majesty ordered the General who commanded the right Wing, to decline it, to take a proper Position in consequence thereof, and, above all, to prevent our being surrounded. All the Cavalry of our right Wing, except two or three Squadrons, had already marched to the Left, which was done at full Gallop ; and being arrived at the Place assigned them they formed over against that of the Enemy. Our Cavalry moved on immediately ; the Enemy's advanced to meet them, and the Charge was very fierce, several Regiments of the *French* coming on with great Resolution. The Advantage, however, was entirely on our Side. The Enemy's Cavalry being routed, were pursued for a considerable Time, with great Spirit. But having afterwards reached an Eminence, which gave them an Opportunity of rallying, our Cavalry fell upon them afresh, and gave them so thorough a Defeat, that they betook themselves to Flight in the utmost Disorder. This happened at Four in the Afternoon. Whilst the Cavalry charged, our Infantry opened themselves. The Enemy cannonaded them very briskly during this Interval, and did some Execution, but our Artillery was not behind-hand with them. This Cannonade having continued on both Sides a full Quarter of an Hour, without the least Intermision, the Fire of the Infantry began. The Enemy could not stand it, nor resist the Valour of our Foot, who gallantly marched up to their Batteries. These Batteries were carried one after another, and the Enemy forced to give Way,

Q

which

which they did in great Confusion. As the left Wing advanced, the right changed its Position ; and having soon met with a small rising Ground, they availed themselves of it, by planting sixteen Pieces of heavy Artillery on it. The Fire from thence was partly pointed at the Enemy's Right, to increase the Disorder there, and took their left Wing in Front, which was excessively galled thereby. At Five the Victory was decided, the Cannon ceased, and the Enemy fled on all Sides. They were pursued as long as there was any Light to distinguish them by ; and, it may be said, that the Night alone was the Preservation of this Army, which was so formidable in the Morning. They took the Benefit of the Darkness to hurry on to *Freybourg*, and there to repass the *Unstrut*, which they did on the Morning of the 6th, after a whole Night's March. The King set out early in the Morning to pursue them with all his Cavalry, supported by four Battalions of Grenadiers ; the whole Infantry following them in two Columns. The Enemy had passed the *Unstrut* at *Freybourg*, when we arrived on its Banks ; and, as they had burnt the Bridge, it became necessary to make another ; which, however, was soon done. The Cavalry passed first, but could not come up with the Enemy till Five in the Evening, upon the Hills of *Eckersberg*. It was too late to force them there ; and the King therefore thought proper to canton his Army in the nearest Villages, and to be satisfied with the Success our Hussars had, in taking near 300 Baggage Waggon, and every Thing in them. This so glorious a Victory must be more agreeable to his Majesty than any one he has ever gained, as it was at the Price of so little Blood, our whole Loss not exceeding 500 in killed and wounded. Among the former is General *Menicke*. His Royal Highness Prince *Henry*, and General *Zeidlitz*, are both slightly wounded.

“ If

“ If we consider the Disposition of both Armies, as to their Numbers, it must be acknowledged, that the Hand of Heaven has been on our Side. The Enemy boasted, that they were 70,000 strong. I believe they were not quite so many : But from the Ground which they covered, it may be inferred, that they were not less than 50,000 fighting Men. After the King had got together at *Leipzig* all the several Corps of his Army, he had thirty-three Battalions and 43 Squadrons, leaving a Garrison of 5 Battalions at *Leipzig*. He marched with the rest to *Lutzen*; and having crossed the *Sala* at *Weissenfels*, *Merseburg*, and *Halle*, and left a Battalion in each of those Places, the whole Army, which joined after this Passage, on the 3^d of *November*, over against the Enemy, consisted only in twenty-five Battalions and forty-four Squadrons. During the Battle, the Regiment of *Winterfeld* covered the Baggage, so that the whole Weight of the Action fell upon the Cavalry, and twenty-three Battalions drawn up in two Lines; and even of this Infantry there were but six Battalions that had Recourse to the Fire of their Muzzle, viz. four Battalions of Grenadiers, and the Regiment of *Old-Brunswick*, which did Wonders. That Regiment lost its Colonel, with about 100 Men killed and wounded.

“ The Loss of the Enemy cannot be yet ascertained. It is supposed they left 3000 Men upon the Field of Battle. The Prisoners exceed 4000 Men, and there is amongst them a great Number of Officers and Generals. We took fifty Pieces of Cannon, and a great many Standards and Colours. We have this Day taken four more Pieces of large Cannon, and made 4 or 500 Prisoners.”

Extract

Extract of a Letter from an Officer in the Army of the Empire, dated from Erfurth, Nov. 7.

“ At one in the Morning of the 30th past, we left our Quarters at *Stoffen*, and received Orders to repair to *Weissenfels*: The Regiment of *Varell* marched through the City, and over the Bridge, and was cantoned at *Petra*; two Regiments, viz. those of *Nassau* and *Deux Ponts*, and *Rechmen's* of *Bavaria*, with two Companies of *French Grenadiers* remained at *Weissenfels*.

“ On the 31st, at Five in the Morning, the *Prussians* came and attacked the City; upon this the whole Army was ordered to assemble; but Prince *Hildburghausen's* Quarters being at half a League's Distance from the City, Prince *George of d'Armstadt* commanded in his Absence, and took every possible Method to make Resistance; but it was too late: They were obliged to retire, and that noble Bridge, which had cost above 100,000 Crowns, was burnt to secure our retreat. The *Prussian* Artillery made a terrible Fire, whilst the two Regiments were passing the Bridge. The Regiment of *Deux Ponts* lost four Officers, and 100 private Men, upon this Occasion. The Captains *Muncherode* and *Dames*, with two Lieutenants, were among the former. The Loss of *Richman's* Regiment amounted to 200 Men, of whom six were Officers. The whole Army continued before the Town, and the Felt Marshal in his Quarters at *Bugerau*. In the Night 300 of the *Wurtzburg* Imperial Regiment were detached to the Place where the Bridge had been, in order to observe the Enemy.

“ During the whole Night a Noise was heard in the City, occasioned by the Strokes of Mallets; but it was not discovered till Break of Day, that two Houses had been turned into Batteries. As they were not yet finished, we easily dismounted them with our six Pieces of Cannon which were sent thither, and killed them four Soldiers and one Workman.

“ The

“ The 1st of *November*, the Fire from the Artillery continued on both Sides till Ten o’Clock, when we began to march towards *Merseburg*; the Baggage having gone before as far as *Camburg*, we were forced to lie on the Ground without Wood or Straw. In the mean while the *French* were reinforced by twenty Battalions and eighteen Squadrons, commanded by the *Duc de Broglie*.

“ The 3^d of *November* we put ourselves in a Posture to wait the Enemy: At One in the Afternoon we retreated a League towards *Freybourg*, where we halted; at Five were drawn up in Order of Battle; and thus we advanced slowly towards the Enemy all Night. We were posted in a Wood on the Right, where we covered ourselves by felling Trees: and Batteries were placed by the *French* on the two Eminences at each End of the Wood. On the Fourth we were in Presence of the Enemy, and cannonaded each other. The Enemy’s Cavalry advanced, but were repulsed by ours, sustained by the Fire of our Artillery. The Enemy’s Infantry then moved forward in three Columns, but were also repulsed. On the 5th the Cannonading began very early in the Morning on both Sides. The left Wing of the Enemy extended as far as *Legen*, and their Right to *Schorta*; and our Army was posted in the Wood at *Waneroda*. At Noon our Army, as well as the *French*, had Orders to form the Line of Battle, and to march out of the Entrenchments which we had made. We advanced towards the Enemy, keeping however, to the Left. The Enemy made a Feint of retiring, on which we redoubled our Pace, but we soon found what Kind of Retreat they were making. In order to deceive us the more effectually, they had sent some Squadrons towards *Merseburg*; but the rest of their Army was drawn up behind an

Eminence

Eminence which concealed them from us. It must be confessed, that we fell completely into the Snare.

“ The first Line of the *French* and our Cavalry continued advancing; when all on a sudden our right Wing received a terrible Fire from the Enemy, which we returned briskly; but, as we had been obliged to advance in some Hurry, our Ranks were a little disordered, which made the Enemy’s Fire fall the more heavily upon us. Our Cavalry fled the first upon a full Gallope, but our Artillery supported us some Time longer; at last the *French* fled likewise; and being then no longer able to resist the Enemy, the Rout became general.

“ We have lost all our Baggage and Artillery, and at least, 10,000 Men. We marched the whole Night, and passing the River at *Freyberg*, arrived at *Eckartsberg* at Six o’Clock in the Morning. At Two o’Clock in the Afternoon the Feldt Marshal and Prince *George* joined us. They had hardly set down to Dinner, but we perceived the Enemy at our Heels, who cannonaded us briskly; and as our Army was not got together, nothing was left for us but to retreat. Having again marched all Night, we arrived at last at *Erfurth*, where we now are in want of every Thing, though we are rather better off than before. It is now eight Days since our Men have had Bread; they have lived upon Turnips and Raddishes, which they dug out of the Earth.”

Extract of a Letter from Leipzig, dated Nov. 9.

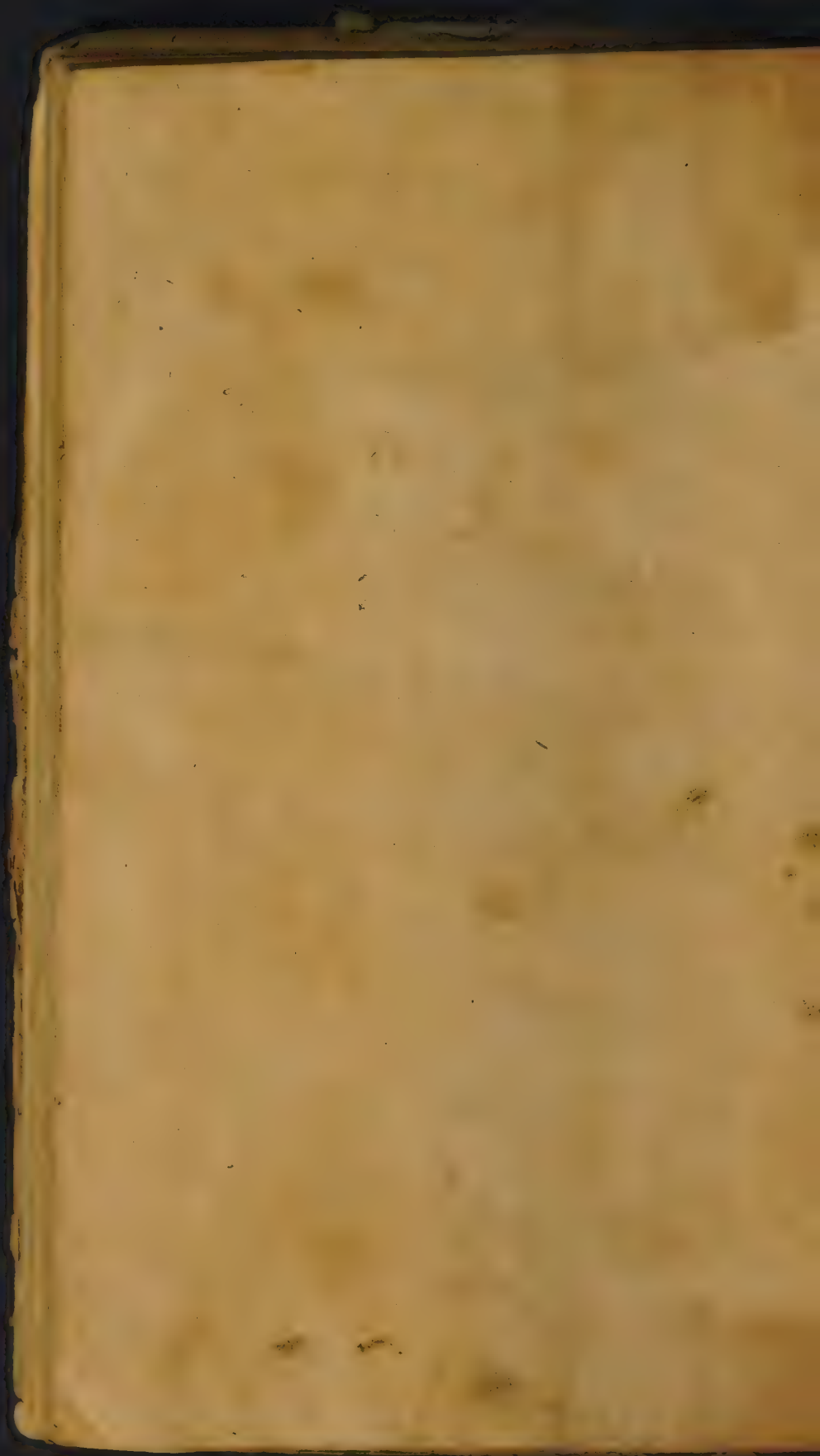
“ It is unfortunately but too certain, that the combined Army has been totally defeated and dispersed. One Part of it has fled by *Naumburg*, the other by *Freyburg*. The Prince of *Deffau* pursues the one, and the King in Person the other. There have been
brought

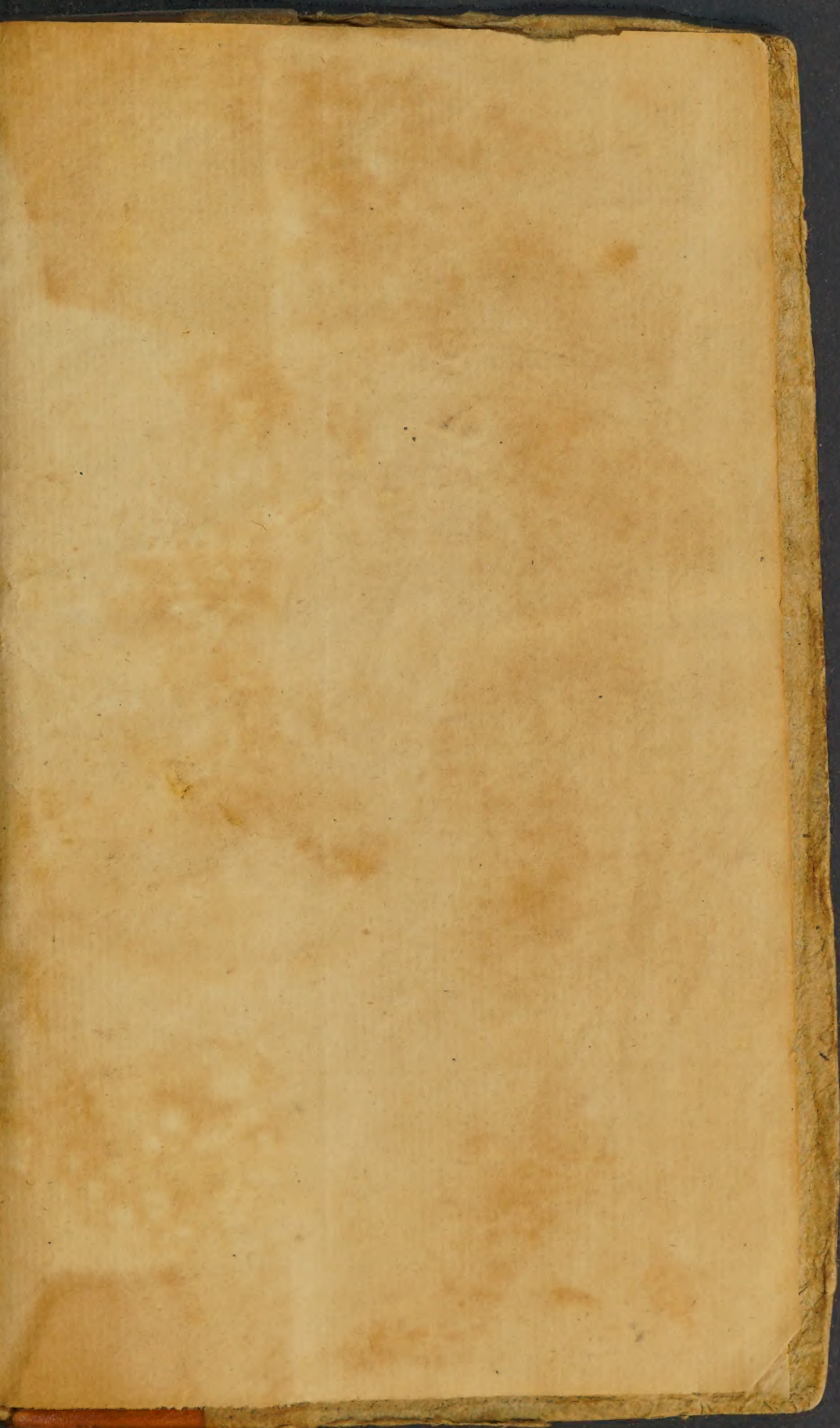
brought to *Merseburg* about 5000 Prisoners, besides 300 Officers. They are confined in the Churches.

“ The Army of the Empire has lost sixty-four Pieces of Cannon, with Kettle-Drums, Colours, and Standards, in great Number. General *Revel*, Brother to the *Duc de Broglie*, died Yesterday of his Wounds at *Merseburg*. This enormous Misfortune is attributed, solely, to the injudicious Dispositions of the two Commanders ; and it is assured, that, for two Days, the Army had not had a Morsel of Bread. Three hundred Waggons, with the heavy Baggage of the *French* Army, and a great Number of Mules, were taken Yesterday at *Eckersberg*. Posterity will never believe, that at most, 18,000 *Prussians* could ruin an Army of above 60,000 Men. Last Night 300 Waggons came hither, loaded with wounded *French* and *Swiss*, who are in great Distress for Want of a sufficient Number of Surgeons. This Day we are informed from *Merseburg*, that the Number of Prisoners amount already to 10,000. The Peasants of *Gotha* and *Thuringe* bring in Numbers of them, in Resentment of the bad Treatment they have met with from the *French* : They add further, that the Victors have taken, in all, 164 Pieces of Cannon. 'Tis not to be doubted, but that their whole Force will now fall upon *Erfurth*.



—, la





Fossil

W. H. M.
1872

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